Role Reversal: COVID Increases Ranks of Child Caregivers

"Like most kids, Rhianna has been stuck at home during the covid-19 pandemic and attends school online. But unlike most other eighth graders, Rhianna is a caregiver, tending to her dad between her virtual classes.

Rhianna is among more than 3 million children and teens who help an ill or disabled family member, according to Caregiving in the U.S. 2020, a national survey published by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP. The survey also found that Hispanic and African American children are twice as likely to be youth caregivers as non-Hispanic white children.

Carol Levine, a senior fellow at the United Hospital Fund, a nonprofit that focuses on improving health care in New York, said the covid pandemic, combined with the worsening opioid epidemic, has increased the number of youth caregivers because more children are homebound and must care for ill or addicted parents. The pandemic has also made caregiving harder for them, since many can no longer escape to school during the day."

From: California Healthline | March 16, 2021

Nursing Home Residents Can Get Hugs Again, Feds Say

"'Now that millions of vaccines have been administered to nursing home residents and staff, and the number of COVID cases in nursing homes has dropped significantly, CMS is updating its visitation guidance to bring more families together safely,' Dr. Lee Fleisher, a senior agency medical officer, said in a statement."

Can Technology Reduce The Stress of Caregivers?

"The tangible benefits of greater IT access for the millions of adults who must manage healthcare for both their children and their aging parents is less clear. The pandemic has likely increased the burden on these "sandwich generation" adults, given how tech-based remote interactions and scheduling have replaced face-to-
... Compassionate care visits should be allowed at all times, the guidance said, even if there’s an outbreak or a resident is unvaccinated. The term ‘compassionate care’ doesn’t refer just to situations when a resident is near death, but also encompasses circumstances in which a patient is having trouble adjusting."

From: Associated Press | March 10, 2021

However, many experts believe that technology, and the cloud in particular, holds the key to not just opening up access to our medical records but providing smarter, more streamlined experiences for individuals and those tasked with caring for family members as well."

From: Forbes | March 16, 2021

3rd International Young Carers Conference

May 3-6, 2021 | Online

The 2nd International Young Carers Conference, held in 2017 in Malmö, Sweden, focused on the theme “Every child has the right to...”. Stakeholders from different sectors and from across the world agreed that young carers should be able to enjoy the same rights as any other children and pointed out that the vision put forward by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is still far from being a reality for many young carers.

The 3rd International Young Carers Conference will build on these conclusions and will reflect on the concrete actions required to enable young carers to reach their full potential. The need to “IDENTIFY, SUPPORT, AND LISTEN TO YOUNG CARERS” are the main recommendations identified by young carers themselves during the previous conference and this entails the participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

Learn more and register with the red link below!
Disease Leadership Tour

March-May 2021

Since 2017, Global Genes and the EveryLife Foundation have partnered to host RARE on the Road events around the country, developing the next generation of advocacy leaders. With feedback from the community, RARE on the Road 2021 will consist of one interactive webinar, open to all who wish to attend, regardless of their geographic location, and three virtual, state-specific meetings focusing on issues and resources relevant to residents in Nevada, Florida, and Illinois. Click the red link below to learn more.

A Rare Disease Leadership Interactive Webinar will be hosted on March 23, 2021 from 11 AM - 1:30 PM EST. Click HERE to register now.

Health Equity Summit

April 28, 2021 | 11 AM - 2:30 PM EST | Online

Amgen's 2020 Health Equity Summit illuminated the value of cross-sector/functional partnerships intended to disrupt systemic barriers to good health among vulnerable populations.

The 2021 Summit will highlight innovative collaborations that have emerged from this time of adversity and best practices for building strategic partnerships to help make American health care more equitable for all people.

REGISTER >

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Apply to Be a Health and Aging Policy Fellow

Deadline: TOMORROW, April 15, 2021

Candidates with a strong commitment to health and aging issues, leadership potential, and interest in aging-relevant policy work are invited to join the next class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows (2021-2022).

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program continues to make great strides in advancing policy with creative solutions in the context of COVID-19.
PATIENT AND CAREGIVER STUDIES

Caregivers of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries

Are you/were you a caregiver to a veteran with traumatic brain injury? Are you 60 years of age or older? If the answer is yes, now is your chance to be part of the first-ever study that is trying to understand the needs and experiences of older caregivers of veterans with traumatic brain injury to provide recommendations for new programs and services.

If you are interested in participating, please use any of the following options to complete the brief online screener to determine if you are eligible.

The online screener can be found at [https://go.illinois.edu/AgeCareVets-Screener](https://go.illinois.edu/AgeCareVets-Screener).

LEARN MORE

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

COVID-19 Vaccine for Homebound Older Adults: Challenges and Solutions

March 31, 2021

With support from The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Cambia Health Foundation, Trust for America's Health offered a webinar to explore the challenges and policy barriers to vaccine access and highlight innovative vaccine distribution practices. The complexities of vaccine distribution to homebound individuals was discussed, as well as the crucial partnerships among public health departments, aging services and other community stakeholders that are key to expanding vaccine access.

Presenters:

- Amanda Cohn, MD, Chief Medical Officer, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
On Wednesday, March 31st, the Longevity Project, in collaboration with the Stanford Center on Longevity, kicked off the National Conversation on Caregiving, an initiative designed to raise visibility around the caregiving crisis in the United States. In this virtual event, we brought together experts in policy and caregiving to discuss opportunities for Congress and the new Administration to better support caregiving and caregivers.
Caregivers: You can be a part of social change for the caregiving community in a matter of minutes. We are proud to partner with Caregiving.com and invite you to use their caregiver salary calculator to compute the value of your unpaid care work! Fill out the questions and send an invoice to your senators.

Start by clicking the red link below!

Make sure to follow Caregiving.com on social media: @caregivingsupport on Facebook and @caregiving on Twitter.

AARP Home Alone Alliance

20 million family caregivers perform complex medical/nursing tasks with very little guidance. The care they provide can be intense, time-consuming, and stressful. The Home Alone Alliance from AARP is dedicated to creating solutions geared towards supporting family caregivers performing complex care tasks.

The Home Alone Alliance is a partnership of public, private, and nonprofit sector organizations coming together to create guidance for healthcare professionals who engage with family caregivers and tools for family caregivers providing complex care. Click the red link below to access resources through blogs, webinars, and videos.

Resources for Providers:
Meeting the Needs of Diverse Family Caregivers

The Diverse Elders Coalition (DEC) has put together a toolkit for providers to address the needs of diverse family caregivers. Building on DEC's comprehensive training curriculum, "Caring For Those Who Care: Meeting the Needs of Diverse Family Caregivers", The toolkit offers top line information on what providers need to know about meeting the needs of diverse family caregivers and creating a more
NEW RESEARCH

Reforming Long-Term Care with Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic

"In October 2020, the Urban Institute hosted a roundtable of leading experts to discuss how the US cares for older adults in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants highlighted key areas for reform and identified potential improvements. These included redesigning Medicaid; creating a strong foundation for home- and community-based services; integrating medical care and long-term services and supports; enhancing pay, benefits, and training for direct-care workers; focusing on the quality of life of frail older adults and younger people with severe disabilities along the full continuum of care; reimagining nursing homes; recognizing racial disparities in the risk of needing care and the delivery of high-quality care; and improving data collection."

From: Urban Institute | March 2, 2021