



Clayton County  
**Senior Services**  
Department  
*changing the face of aging*

## CLAYTON COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### PRESS RELEASE

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

May 1, 2018

### **Kinship Care to Celebrate Graduating Seniors**

JONESBORO — Kinship Care Resource Center will celebrate its graduating class of 2018 on May 24 from 1 to 2 p.m. with Clayton County Chairman Jeffery E. Turner joining as the keynote speaker.

Kinship Care is a branch of Clayton County Senior Services Department and serves grandparents and relative caregivers raising children in parent-absent homes. It is the model kinship care program for the state of Georgia and serves over 350 families.

“We stress the importance of education to caregivers,” Kinship Care Manager Angela Burda said. “We provide them with resources because the more stable they are, the more successful their children will be.”

And successful they are — all 17 high school seniors from Kinship Care will be walking across the stage at the end of May to receive their high school diplomas.

Kinship Care has had a 100 percent graduation rate from the time its first class of nine seniors graduated in 2007. This is no small feat considering the high school graduation rate for children living in parent-absent homes in Georgia is 11 percent.

The national college graduation rate for children in parent-absent homes is even less with only 2.5 percent graduating with a four-year degree. But Kinship Care’s seniors Eric Leigh and Asia Poinsette are defying the odds.

Leigh graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Construction from Georgia Southern University. Poinsette graduated from Atlanta Metropolitan College with an Associate’s Degree in Science and has already found employment at Northside Hospital as an LPN. She will be furthering her education as she pursues a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Burda attributes the high school and college students’ successes to the services Kinship Cares offers their families.



Clayton County  
**Senior Services**  
Department  
*changing the face of aging*

“When families are involved in a stable kinship program, the kids do better,” Burda said. “This program — one of the things it does — is empower them [the grandparents], which empowers them to do more for their grandchildren.”

To learn more about Kinship Care’s programs and services, please call (770) 473-5788. Kinship Care is located at 849 Battle Creek Road in Jonesboro.

###