Minions may look the same, but they are different. They act in different ways. They dress in different ways. They love in different ways. JUST LIKE PEOPLE DO.

People may look the same in some ways, but we are all different. We dress in different ways. We act in different ways. We come from different places all over the world.

We believe in different ways and in so many different things. People have different ways of being together, and different ways of loving.

It’s quite wonderful that minions can be themselves and all of us can be ourselves. That’s the way it is suppose to be.

It’s really quite wonderful.
As a result of the Senators' support, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) celebrated the bipartisan Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (S. 1091) becoming law. The new law will create a one-stop shop of resources to support grandparents raising grandchildren.

In Pennsylvania, more than 100,000 children are being raised by grandparents or other relatives, and experts say this number continues to grow as the opioid epidemic devastates communities. Senator Casey introduced the bill last year, with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), after an Aging Committee hearing during which witnesses testified about why grandparents need easy access to information about available resources. Recently, Senator Casey hosted a series of roundtable discussions with Pennsylvania grandparents to discuss how the bill will help them. “I am pleased that the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act has become law. This law will provide grandparents in Pennsylvania, and across the nation, with easy access to helpful resources,” said Senator Casey.

“The grandparents, some of which have stepped in to raise their grandchildren due to the opioid crisis, are faced with unique challenges such as delaying retirement, bridging the generational divide and working through the court system to secure custody. I look forward to the Administration swiftly convening the advisory council created under this legislation so grandparents can access the supports they need.”

The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to assemble an advisory council that will include the U.S. Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies. The advisory council will identify and disseminate information to help grandparents raising grandchildren address the challenges they may face, such as navigating the school system, planning for their families’ future, addressing mental health services for themselves and their grandchildren and building social and support networks.

The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act is supported by 40 older adult and child advocacy groups. The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act has become law. The new law will create a one-stop shop of resources to support grandparents raising grandchildren. This important legislation will result in improving the lives of the 2.6 million grandparents who are raising grandchildren, more and more of whom are being called on because of the opioid epidemic. These grandparents need information and assistance on issues dealing with legal custody, available social services, mental health counseling, and other vital programs. This law will help to achieve that goal by creating a federal advisory council that will serve as a much-needed centralized source of information and resources for grandparents.”

“Generations United applauds Senators Collins and Casey for championing the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act, which has now passed the House and the Senate. This important legislation will result in improving the lives of the 2.6 million grandparents who are raising grandchildren, more and more of whom are being called on because of the opioid crisis,” said Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United. “As a result of the Senators’ compassionate leadership, efforts to support relative caregivers will be better coordinated at the federal level and critical gaps in services will be identified and filled.”

“As the opioid epidemic continues to contribute to rising numbers of children entering foster care, it is critical to support caregivers who are raising children, known as kinship caregivers,” said American Academy of Pediatrics President, Colleen A. Kraft, MD, MBA, FAAP. “Supporting kinship caregivers helps maintain a child’s connection to family, and is essential to alleviating the trauma children face when they enter foster care as a result of their parents’ substance use disorder. The American Academy of Pediatrics thanks Congress for enacting the bipartisan Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act, and looks forward to supporting its effective implementation.”

INTRODUCING AFN’S FIRST COMMUNITY FAMILY SUPPORT PARTNER

AFN is excited to announce a satellite office located in the northern part of Allegheny County in North Hills and it will be opening soon. This office will be referred to as Allegheny Family Network – North. It will offer Family Support Groups, Adult GED classes, trainings and social events to serve the community. This site will also host collaborative meetings for the community social services agencies, schools and churches which are involved with community efforts in the area. AFN looks forward to becoming a part of this community and serving families who are raising children with mental health and/or behavioral concerns.

Stay tuned for the Grand Opening date!

When AFN learned about Deb’s outreach program for the community, AFN decided to hire Deb as the first “Community Family Support Partner.”

“Deb is a devoted individual as Deb who has so much compassion in helping others. If you live in and around the Mountain View Community or know of any family who may need help, please feel free to stop by and see Deb at 1521 Craddock Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15202. Deb can also be reached at this phone number: 412-505-3446.”

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Allegheny Family Network, in addition to providing one-on-one support for Grandparents raising their Grandchildren, has created a support group for grandparents/caregivers of children with Mental Health or Behavioral Concerns to meet once a month to provide each other encouragement, comfort and advice.

Invites you to join us for the Kick Off for our

Grandparents Support Group

Second time around rearing children and the world has changed.

This support group is for grandparents rearing grandchildren with emotional and mental health needs. Discuss topics that challenge your parenting of this new generation. Receive encouragement and support from people who understand and who are going through or have been through parenting again.

Wednesday, September 19, 2018
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Kingsley Association
6435 Frankstown Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Refreshments and childcare will be provided

RSVP to Christine Snyder, Supervisor, at 412-438-6120
AFN - SUPPORT GROUP CALENDAR 2018

September
10 Moms United Support Group—Heart Health Bingo: Group interaction through discussion and bingo! How do we want to see the Moms United staying on a healthy track moving forward?
11 Men’s Zone—Investments: Pros and Cons, Different types of investments. Are you able to invest?
12 Dual Diagnosis/Diva Discussions Groups Combined—Taking Care of your Heart BINGO: Learn while we play. Printed materials to aid in determining better ways to take care of our hearts.
13 Agents of Transformation 6 Week Training Begins Sept 13—Oct 18, 2018, 10am-2pm. RSVP by 9/6/2018 Please call 412-246-3203 to register.
14 Nurturing Parents Training 6 Week Training Begins Sept 18—Oct 23, 2018, 5:30pm-9pm. RSVP by 9/6/2018 Please call 412-246-3203 to register.
15 Grandparents Support Group KICKOFF! Contact Christine Snyder at 412-438-6120 for more information

October
16 Tri-Boro Networking Support Group—IEP/504: Know your rights. Speaker to be announced.
17 Turn It Up Network — Self Care: How to take care of yourself without getting overwhelmed or spending a lot of money.
18 Dads Connecting, AFN is on a journey through Workshops called Champion in New. Please call Facilitator for topic.
19 Foster Parents Support Group—Topic to be decided by the group. Please call Rose Hammonds at 412-438-6114 or Carla Thompson at 412-438-6127 for update.
20 Tri-Boro Networking Support Group—Thanks giving Celebration: Turkey and fixings and craft decorating a box of people and things you are grateful for.
21 Grandparents Support Group—Topic to be decided by the group. Please call Rose Hammonds at 412-438-6114 or Carla Thompson at 412-438-6127 for update.
22 Turn It Up Network—Pot Luck/ Giving Thanks: Participants to bring their favorite food to share and enjoy the company of the group while discussing the Thanksgiving holiday.
23 Foster Parents Support Group—No group in October. Group meets every other month. Next group meeting November 15, 2018. See you then.
24 Women Rocking Wellness—Group has been discontinued until a better location is found. Please check Facebook and the AFN website for updates: www.alleghenynetwork.org
25 Highlands Area Community Cabinet—This group is on hold until opening of new site. Please check Facebook and the AFN website for updates: www.alleghenynetwork.org
26 Welcome to AFN Family Support Groups and AFN Events Information

November
8 Moms United Support Group—Day of Crafting for the Holidays.
9 Men’s Zone—Credit: How to check your credit score, and understand it. Ways to rebuild your credit.
10 Dual Diagnosis/Diva Discussion Groups Combined—The Effects of Abuse on the Elder Population: Presenter to be announced.
11 Grandparents Support Group—Topic to be decided by the group. Please call Rose Hammonds at 412-438-6114 or Carla Thompson at 412-438-6127 for update.
12 Foster Parents Support Group—Thanksgiving Celebration: Turkey and fixings and craft decorating a box of people and things you are grateful for.
13 Women Rocking Wellness—Group has been discontinued until a better location is found. Please check Facebook and the AFN website for updates: www.alleghenynetwork.org
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17 Women Rocking Wellness—Group has been discontinued until a better location is found. Please check Facebook and the AFN website for updates: www.alleghenynetwork.org

December
10 Moms United Support Group—Holiday Season Pot Luck! Topic to be announced.
11 Men’s Zone—Where are your New Year Plans: Financial goals, personal goals, and Family goals.
12 Dual Diagnosis/Diva Discussion Groups Combined—Holiday Pot Luck Dinner: Sharing enduring recipes. Total group participation.
13 Grandparents Support Group—Topic to be decided by the group. Please call Christine Snyder for update at 412-438-6120
15 Turn It Up Network—Bingo with a Grab Bag Exchange.
16 Foster Parents Support Group—No group in December. Group meets every other month. Next group meeting is January 17, 2019. Happy Holidays and New Year! See you then.
17 Highlands Area Community Cabinet—This group is on hold until opening of new site. Please check Facebook and the AFN website for updates: www.alleghenynetwork.org
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19 Women Rocking Wellness—Group has been discontinued until a better location is found. Please check Facebook and the AFN website for updates: www.alleghenynetwork.org

AFN provides child care for parents to be able to attend our support groups. Your RSVP is very important and very much appreciated when attending a support group. Please RSVP to your group’s facilitator. Thank You.

If you would like to receive this calendar electronically, please call our CHAT line at 412-225-3261, and we will email it to you as a PDF file. The PDF file will open with Acrobat Reader which you can download for free from the internet. Thank you.