



# Family Transitions Project

2015 NEWSLETTER

## GREETINGS!

**Toll-Free**  
**800.455.4250**

**Local:**  
**515.233.4004**

**Email:**  
[transitions@iastate.edu](mailto:transitions@iastate.edu)

**Your contacts  
at the Ames  
office are:**



Dr. Tricia Nepl  
Project Director



Debbie Bahr  
Project Manager

The Family Transitions Project is proud to announce funding for another study and excited to update you with information about other pending research proposals and opportunities! Although we have not been in touch with you for several years, we have continued to explore ways that the project can carry on its 25 year tradition of valuable contributions to understanding human development. Because you have been willing to share your time and experiences with the project, you have been instrumental in improving life for people throughout the United States and beyond! We thank you for all your time and effort over the years.

We are pleased to have obtained funding to visit with the original parents in the study in 2015 and 2017 through in-home interviews or mail questionnaires. The National Institutes of Health, a federal agency that has provided funding over the years, has continued their support of the Family Transitions Project. NIH has placed a high priority on understanding the baby boomer generation, especially from a public health standpoint, and the newly funded grant, called the Later Adulthood Study, speaks to this vital topic. The Principal Investigators are Dr. Kandauda Wickrama, Dr. Fred Lorenz, and Dr. Tricia Nepl. Both Wick and Fred have been involved with the Family Transitions Project since its inception. You may recognize Tricia from her work with “Target’s” children. More information about the Later Adulthood Study is provided on page 2 of this newsletter. As always, please contact us if you have questions about any aspect of the study.

In addition to beginning a new study, the project is **moving back to Ames, Iowa** where it all began back in the late 1980’s. Note that our email address has changed to an Iowa State University address. We are currently working on moving the website back to Iowa State and, unfortunately, you may not be able to access it at times during the process. We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience!

A number of researchers have submitted or plan to submit grant proposals that involve various aspects of the Family Transitions Project. For example, we hope to contact study “Targets” and “Siblings” for a project that would involve looking at sibling relationships. Given that the project has information about sibling relationships going back to twenty-five years ago, the project is in a unique position to make additional contributions in this area of human development. Researchers are also looking at continuing our work with “Targets” and their children — the 4th generation to be involved in the Family Transitions Project! This work might involve a number of studies that would focus on different age cohorts of children.

We hope you have continued to be proud of your unique and significant role in the Family Transitions Project. Truly, none of the advances in scientific knowledge or the contributions to society would have been possible without your willingness to participate. **THANK YOU!** We look forward to continuing to work with you!

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1609 Golden Aspen Drive, Suite 102  
Ames, IA 50010

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**OUR WEBSITE IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION. WE WILL UPDATE YOU WHEN IT IS READY FOR USE. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE!**

**As always, we greatly appreciate address and phone number updates, as well as knowing of any preferences for being contacted. In addition, we welcome questions and comments about the project.**

## DATA COLLECTION PLANS FOR 2015

The Family Transitions Project has received funding for a 5 year grant that will involve two waves of data collection focusing on the original parents in the study. As you may remember we visited with parents in 2001, about 10 years after graduation of the “Target” study child. The purpose of the 2001 study, called the Midlife Transitions Project, was to learn about stability and changes to parents’ health and well-being since their last in-home visit. Information learned from the 2001 study will be available on our website for those interested in learning more.

The newly approved grant for following parents in the study will build upon knowledge gained from the early years of the Family Transitions Project, and the Midlife Transitions Project. In addition, this information will be augmented by

genetic data from those who participated in the Genetics Study.

The purpose of this new enterprise, called the Later Adulthood Study, is to improve understanding of continuity and change in couple relationships and individual health as baby boomers transition into retirement. In addition, the study will investigate how the transition into retirement impacts work, marital, parent, and social experiences.

We will contact parents beginning in March to ask for their participation in this valuable research. As usual, we will send a letter that provides specific information about what is involved, but following is a brief summary:

- Parents who are in a steady, romantic relationship will be

asked to complete an in-home visit consisting of one video discussion task and questionnaires. The amount of compensation is \$125 for each participant.

- Parents who are not currently in a steady, romantic relationship will be asked to complete mail questionnaires. The compensation is \$75.
- Each parental household will also be asked to verify and update information such as relationship status, changes to employment, and retirement plans. This will be done on the phone during our initial call.

**THANK YOU! WE LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING WITH YOU IN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO!**