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CONTACT:

Donna Butts, Generations United, (202) 289-3979 dbutts@gu.org

Ken Bryson, Generations United, (202) 289-3979 kbryson@gu.org

Number of Grandparents Living with Grandchildren is on the Increase

New Census Bureau Data Show Rise Since 2003 Among Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White Grandparents Living with their Grandchildren

WASHINGTON, DC – More than 6 million grandparents are now living with their grandchildren, according to data just released by the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) shows that the number of grandparents living with grandchildren under 18 has been increasing since 2003, an increase that occurred among Hispanic and non-Hispanic white grandparents, but not among black grandparents.

The 2006 ACS data reveal that about 89 percent of children under 18 live in the home of a biological, adoptive or stepparent. Of children not living with a parent, 4.7 million are grandchildren, 2.0 million are other relatives, and 1.4 million are non-relatives of the householder. In 2006, 2.5 million grandparents were responsible for the needs of the children living with them.

The American Community Survey, with an annual sample size of three million addresses, fills in the gaps between each 10-year census. It helps determine how more than \$300 billion per year is distributed and informs decisions on policies, programs, and services for communities.

“Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives who are increasingly being asked to care for related children, often at great sacrifice, deserve our respect and support,” stated Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United. “The new Census Bureau numbers should encourage Congress to act quickly to aid these grandfamilies. The Kinship Caregiver Support Act, currently under consideration in Congress, would make it easier for relatives to care for the children they find themselves unexpectedly raising.” The bipartisan Kinship Caregiver Support Act would link relative caregivers to a range of services to help the children in their care and would permit states to use federal foster care funds to subsidize guardianships so children could leave foster care for permanent homes with relatives.

Other findings of intergenerational significance include evidence of an aging workforce. Nearly one in four people between the ages of 65 and 74 (23.2 percent) were in the labor force in 2006, an increase from 19.6 percent in 2000. Additionally, home ownership has increased since 2000, with more than two-thirds of all occupied homes (67.3 percent) currently owned by the occupant, compared to 66.2 percent in 2000.

For more information on grandparents living with grandchildren, see the 2006 ACS grandparents subject table, S1002, and grandchildren subject table S1001 at www.factfinder.census.gov.

ABOUT GENERATIONS UNITED: *Generations United, a membership organization of over 100 national, state and local organizations representing more than 70 million Americans, works to improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies. For more information about Generations United visit: www.gu.org.*