

## Simple Tips For Staying Connected To Family™

(NAPSA)—Are your parents online? In a recent survey, 53 percent of Americans over 35 admit that having Internet access would help them better communicate with their parents. Yet 30 percent of respondents and 42 percent of their parents don't have Internet access. With affordable and easy-to-use technology, now is an opportune time to reunite the whole family...online.

Below are some fun, easy ways families can use technology to strengthen relationships and bridge the generation gap between many children, parents, and grandparents.

**Forward:** Don't have time to write a lengthy e-mail? Let grandma know you care by forwarding a joke or family photo. Forwards are a great way to share information and let family know you're thinking of them.

**Access:** Internet access can be one of the most unique and rewarding gifts you can give a loved one. For older relatives or Internet newcomers, consider an easy-to-use service like MSN® TV which allows them to access the Internet through their television. With MSN TV, relatives can send e-mail, view photos, and surf the Web, all from the comfort of their couch. The MSN TV receiver is just \$99\* and with monthly access starting as low as \$9.95\* per month, MSN TV is a practical and affordable gift to give any time of year.

**Memories:** Don't get to visit with loved ones as often as you'd like? Keep family close to your heart by sharing pictures or other details of your life through e-mail. Also research your geneal-

ogy. There's no better way to connect with, and get to know older relatives, than by exploring your family history together online.

**Instant Message:** Instant messaging has never been more popular than it is today. Consider using a free service like MSN Messenger to connect instantaneously to loved ones all over the world. Grandparents, show your grandkids how cool you are by instant messaging them a virtual smile or hug.

**Linking Ages:** Technology can link family members of all ages to one common interest. According to Dr. David Lansdale, founder of LinkingAges.Net (a nonprofit that uses MSN TV to help older Americans connect with family and friends), the Internet has been instrumental in keeping older Americans healthy, active and "in the loop," despite geographical distance. "The impact of this technology on families is extraordinary," said Lansdale. "Using MSN TV we have literally watched isolated elders come alive and thrive. It's a powerful, affordable and easy elixir!"

**Year-Round:** Families often connect during the holidays, but technology makes it easier to stay in touch all year. Consider setting up a family chat, building a family Web site or helping your kids e-mail their grandparents. These tips are simple but effective ways to build a stronger link between loved ones, old and young.

\*MSN TV services are available as a local call in most areas. In some areas, long distance charges may apply. To check local access, call (800) 469-3288.