



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: May 8, 2015

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Foster Grandparent Program Celebrates Golden Anniversary, Recognizes Local Foster Grandparents

Cass City, MI – “Foster Grandparents are Pure Gold” was the theme of Thursday night’s Thumb Area Foster Grandparent Program recognition banquet. The VFW Post 3644 in Cass City was decked out in gold and attended by the Thumb’s “golden” Foster Grandparents, family, friends, and participating school personnel. Each Foster Grandparent was recognized for the number of years they have served as a Foster Grandparent volunteer. Grandparents were also presented with a special gift made by students from the classrooms they were a part of this school year.

The Human Development Commission, proud sponsor of the Thumb Area Foster Grandparent Program, enrolled 42 Foster Grandparents from Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties this school year. Foster Grandparents reaching milestone years were presented with special awards from U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congresswoman Candice Miller, State Senator Phil Pavlov, and State Senator Mike Green. Foster Grandparents reaching milestone years included Fern VanSickle (Owendale) with 15 years of service; Harvey Gerstenberger (Sandusky) and Thelma Hill (Sandusky), each with 10 years of service; and Angela Smith (Harbor Beach), Rebekah Piotrowski (Deckerville), Bella Gonzalez (Sandusky), and Sandra Nicholas (Kinde), each with five years of service.

Nationally, 2015 marks the 50th year for the Foster Grandparent Program, which was established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The program places grandparents in elementary/middle schools, Head Start programs, and preschool classrooms to work one-on-one with students who have special or exceptional needs. Foster Grandparents stay active in their community and use their experience and wisdom to help children succeed academically and socially.

The Human Development Commission’s Foster Grandparent Program has been serving Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties since 1978. The program is made possible with funding from the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging,

Corporation for National and Community Service, United Way of Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties, and various fundraising events.

For the next school year, the Foster Grandparent Program is seeking caring adults age 55 and over who would like to share their experience and love with young children.

If you are interesting in becoming a Foster Grandparent, please call the Human Development Commission at 1-800-843-6394.

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