



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Advocating for Michigan's Older Adults

Lansing, MI - Hundreds of seniors and advocates for seniors gathered on the lawn of the Capitol in Lansing on Wednesday, May 16, 2018. Their goal: show support for Michigan's aging population. Older Michiganian's Day is an annual rally that takes place on the Lawn of the Capitol Building in Lansing. This event brings together hundreds of seniors, aging service providers and senior advocates with their legislators and key state officials.

Staff and volunteers from Human Development Commission's Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) joined others from across the state to support senior volunteers. Wearing bright green t-shirts stating "Senior Volunteers Save Lives" the group stood out in a sea of supporters. FGP/RSVP Manager, Kristy Sutherland, stated "The slogan on the t-shirts is two-fold, the health benefits of volunteers in the later years of life are remarkable, but what the volunteers do for others in the community also 'saves lives.'" The Michigan Association of Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Program recently adopted the slogan and took the lead on ensuring participants from across the state matched when everyone gathered at Older Michiganian's Day.

Along with seniors and senior advocates, many legislators joined in and participated showing their support. Lieutenant Governor, Brian Calley, addressed the group and showed his support for older adults and programming for Michigan to be a "No Wait State." Other issues addressed by legislators was the prevention of Elder Abuse, support of the Direct Care workforce, and the preservation of the MI Choice Waiver program.

"While senior volunteers were not addressed directly, our volunteers touch each of the platforms that were mentioned." Sutherland noted. Human Development Commission sponsors the Foster Grandparent Program and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties. Combined the programs have nearly 150 volunteers.

For more information on the Foster Grandparent or the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties, contact HDC at 1-800-843-6394.

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