

Meaningful Quotes

“The greatest asset of the Foster Grandparents is their willingness, after long careers in the world of work and families, to start all over again by contributing to the family we call community.”

— Debra Byrd

Washington, D.C. Head Start Director

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

— Winston Churchill



“Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.”

— Helen Keller

“Volunteering doesn’t just help people on the receiving end; it drastically improves the health and happiness of the giver, too. Elderly volunteers demonstrate a decrease in depression and an increase in overall physical health-and they live longer than their non-volunteering peers.”

— 2002 University of Michigan Study

Creating Awareness

Help spread the “Foster Grandparent Program” message to those that might be interested in being a Foster Grandparent. Please give this brochure to someone who would like to become a program participant.



Funding Sources

- * The Foster Grandparent Program of Western Illinois is federally funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service-Senior Corps Division.
- * State funding is received from the Illinois Department on Aging.
- * Cash and in-kind donations are also received from volunteer stations, individuals, clubs, organizations, and businesses.

To find additional information about TCOC and the Foster Grandparent Program visit www.tcochelps.org

Tri-County Opportunities Council is a
United Way Partner Agency



Tri-County Opportunities Council Foster Grandparent Program



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Introducing the Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program began in the United States 55 years ago in 1965. The Foster Grandparent Program of Western Illinois started at Tri-County Opportunities Council (TCOC) 54 years ago in 1966 and currently serves Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside counties. From its inception, the program has provided a chance for older adults and young children to answer each others' needs.

The title of the Foster Grandparent Program can be misleading to many people today. The Foster Grandparents make a service commitment to youngsters and individuals who are struggling with learning needs in reading, math, spelling, art, and other constructive academic projects in public and private schools, preschools, day cares, Head Start classrooms and the Exceptional Care Facility. The grandparents provide personal guidance in order that the child or individual can grow more fully. The relationship between the grandparent and the child with special needs is a mutually beneficial relationship.

Being a Foster Grandparent is a rewarding experience and provides a useful and meaningful purpose in the life of the individual. Besides assisting the child and the site teacher or supervisor, the Foster Grandparents also expand their own personal lives with friendships and experiences in addition to utilizing their special talents.

Can you be the Foster Grandparent a child needs?

Qualifications

- * Be 55 years old or older
- * Meet income guidelines
- * Must love children
- * Be willing to serve a minimum of 280 hours a year.

Foster Grandparents

Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.

Benefits

- Transportation
- Free meals
- Paid holidays
- Paid physical
- Hourly stipend
- Sick leave
- Travel allowance
- Vacation days

Participants receive a Federal and State tax free stipend of \$3.00 per hour. This stipend does not affect Social Security payments, public housing assistance, food stamps, and pensions.

Giving Back Is Good For You, TOO!

Older Americans who volunteer frequently live longer and report better health. Volunteering can also lead to more friendships and more positive attitude.

YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!

You don't need formal experience in tutoring or mentoring. You'll receive pre-service orientation and training from the site with which you will serve. Through the monthly in-service trainings, the teachers' guidance, and the grandparents' natural nurturing abilities, the Foster Grandparents are equipped to make a difference in the educational and social growth of children.



“My children and grandkids are grown and seem to have no time for me, I need to feel needed and wanted. After a month at my site, I got the feeling of being needed... I am being rewarded and blessed because I feel I am helping these elementary children. My feeling of being wanted and needed have been fulfilled. I should have started sooner.”

— Grandma Sue

volunteer
do good, feel good