



Area Agency on Aging, Inc. for the Counties of
Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Tioga

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Value of a Moment

Bradford County, PA (June 19, 2020)

“Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory”, a Dr. Seuss quote. The Foster Grandparents of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Tioga Counties, always enjoyed mentoring children at their local schools and Head Starts. Their days were busy and full. The seniors were greeted with smiles, hugs, and childhood stories. Soon, the day got started and the students’ studies began, the Foster Grandparent would lend a hand. As a tutor they helped youngsters in reading and math, and guided a shaky little hand to keep those scissors on the right path. As a mentor, they gave high-fives and thumbs-ups and showed their favor to someone caught with good behavior. As a grandpa or grandma, they wipe tears, encouraged, inspire, and cheered.

Then who would ever think, the Corona Virus hit, the schools were closed, businesses closed, and these active seniors are instructed to avoid public places, family visits, and to self-quarantine in their homes. A Foster Grandparent from each of our covered counties was asked to write their feelings about being quarantined and not being able to attend their schools or Head Starts. Here are their thoughts:

Foster Grandma Jean Koons from Susquehanna County writes:

I knew every Monday Morning

I knew I would find myself being greeted at Mountain View Elementary School by active, smiling five year old children ready to give hugs and tell their stories, so important to them. I loved those moments, as well as the rest of my day filled with times I saw a child’s face light-up when they learned to read. I’ve spent eleven years cherishing those moments.

Then one day in March 2020, I was told school would close for the remainder of the year. Gone were those smiling faces, those hugs and in their place---long days of self-isolation due to a virus.

I always knew how important those children were to me, and I miss them, especially the hugs. Hopefully this will pass soon to be replaced by the children’s smiling faces.



Jean Koons

Foster Grandpa Paul Simon from Bradford County writes:

I miss working one on one with my students, helping them with math and reading. I also miss working with my teachers. I really do miss the kids most of all.



Paul Simon

Foster Grandma Janet Stanley from Sullivan County writes:

Good morning, great to see you. Would you like a hug? Need help to get your folder out of your backpack? Don't forget to put your coat in your cubby.

This is how my day would often begin when I volunteered at Head Start. It is a different time now. Living alone there are no smiles or hugs. Though my cat is happy for me to get up and feed him. He doesn't quite fill the spot the kids did. I also think of them and wonder how some of them are doing. Some of their living situations could be challenging and often we helped them experience fun and educational times in a novel environment. I miss making a small difference in little lives.



Janet Stanley

Foster Grandma Judy Sullivan from Tioga County writes:

My name is Judy. I have been a Foster Grandparent for 13 years. I work at the Montessori in Wellsboro, PA.

I love what I do and it was very hard to be away from the little ones for two months. Going there five days a week is what keeps me active and happy! Finally I am back and life is good again.



Judy Sullivan

Hopefully late August or September will find school buses roaming our country roads, classrooms filling with students, and Foster Grandparents being greeted with smiles, hugs, and stories. If you long for a smiling face, a hug, and a child's animated story, maybe you would make a wonderful Foster Grandparent.

There are 58 Foster Grandparents within our four county areas. Some of the Foster Grandparents enjoy mentoring children at a year round facility; others tutor children at schools and Head Starts just during the school year and take summers off; and a number of Foster Grandparents choose to guide children during the school year and then help at a day-camp or at summer school for part of their summer.

The Foster Grandparent Program can provide income eligible people 55 years of age and older the opportunity to serve in a local hometown classroom. The Foster Grandparent Program also provides Foster Grandparents with a small monetary stipend, transportation reimbursement, transportation (for people who don't drive), paid time off and paid holidays.

To Learn More about the Foster Grandparent Program Call:
(Locally) 570-265-6121 or (Toll Free) 1-800-982-4346

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