

Foster Grandparents

Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.

**Lutheran Social Services Foster Grandparent Program
serving the counties of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany**

316 E. 4th Street
Jamestown NY 14701
Phone: (716) 665-5354
Fax: (716) 665-8070

For more information visit: www.lutheran-jamestown.org/fgp.htm

Purpose and Goals of the Foster Grandparent Program

Purpose:

Under the authority of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, the Corporation for National and Community Service provides grants to qualified agencies and organizations for the dual purpose of: engaging persons 55 and older, particularly those with limited incomes, in volunteer service to meet critical needs of children; and to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of the volunteers. Program funds are used to support Foster Grandparents in providing supportive, person-to-person service to children having exceptional or special needs.

Goals:

- (1) Enable low-income persons aged 55 and over to remain physically and mentally active and to enhance their self-esteem through continued participation in needed community services.
- (2) Enable children with either exceptional or special needs to meet individualized physical, mental, emotional, and social development.
- (3) Provide a stipend and other benefits which enable eligible persons to participate as Foster Grandparents without cost to themselves.

*“I look forward to the
smiles on the
children’s faces
each day”*

Rita Jusko,
Foster Grandma
Chautauqua County, NY



Linda Burton, Project Coordinator	(716) 665-5354
Pamela Johnson, Project Account Manager	(716) 665-5354
Debbie Basile, Project Director FGP	(716) 665-8039

Get Involved!

The Foster Grandparent Program began locally in 1983 when Lutheran Social Services graciously became our local sponsor. Since that time, Lutheran Social Services has continued to sponsor this federal program and supports all its good work with children in our community.

Who can be a Foster Grandparent?

Men and women 55 years of age and older, who like to be with children, are in good health and are income eligible may become a Foster Grandparent.

What does a Foster Grandparent do?

Work under the supervision of trained professional staff
Give assistance, support, love, and companionship to children with special or emotional needs.
Assist in the development of basic learning skills
Teach simple tasks and self care skills
Help children to grow physically, socially, emotionally and academically.
Make enriching contributions to your community in your retirement years.

What does a Foster Grandparent Receive?

\$2.65 per hour – tax exempt stipend
Travel Assistance
Meal during your work day
Accident insurance while on the job
Paid orientation and inservice training
New friends and companionship
Feelings of personal worth and usefulness through helping children

When does a Foster Grandparent Work?

As little as 15 hours per week or up to 40 hours depending on your personal preference.

72 Local Foster Grandparent Volunteers served 53, 244 hours with children at schools, child care centers and Head Start Projects.

Corporation for National and Community Service

The Foster Grandparent Program is a part of Senior Corps, along with RSVP and Senior Companions. Senior Corps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that supports service and volunteering programs to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement. For more information on the Corporation, visit www.nationalservice.gov.



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