



October 27, 2015

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM



On behalf of the California Department of Developmental Services I would like to express my congratulations and appreciation to the many committed Senior Grandparent volunteers, program managers, and our federal granting partner, the Corporation for National & Community Service, on the 50th Anniversary of the National Foster Grandparent Program.

Every day, local program staff train and support the volunteers who make a tremendous difference in the lives of children, youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our Foster Grandparents provide companionship and friendship, as well as mentoring to individuals in our Developmental Centers and persons who are being served by Regional Centers in the community.

The National Foster Grandparent program, as first envisioned by Sargent Shriver in 1965 during President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, awarded grant money to states to start pilot projects. The California Foster Grandparent Program began in 1967 at Pacific State Hospital (which later became Lanterman Developmental Center), followed by the Senior Companion Program in 1968. The "win-win" program has now grown to nine Regional Center program sites and over 567 Foster Grandparents enrich over 1,100 lives who receive the attention and tutoring of a warm, caring senior.

Bless you all for your caring dedication and service to individuals with special needs.

Sincerely,

SANTI J. ROGERS

Director