



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 2, 2015

***50th Anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program***

Many individuals with intellectual and developmental special needs benefit from the mentoring, companionship and support they receive from Foster Grandparents. In 1965, Sargent Shriver, a special assistant in President Lyndon B. Johnson's Administration, realized this need and started the Foster Grandparent Program. As part of the Johnson Administration's *War on Poverty*, Sargent Shriver also envisioned a way for low-income, older adults, to stay active by serving as volunteer mentors and companions. In a role similar to a grandparent, the volunteer, matched with a child or young adult, would continue to comfort and support the same individual for many years.

In 1967, the California Department of Developmental Services established the Foster Grandparent Program at Pacific State Hospital which later became Lanterman Developmental Center (now closed). Today, California's program is available in nine locations where over 1,100 people with intellectual and developmental special needs enjoy a better quality of life from the caring support of over 560 Foster Grandparents who volunteer more than 450,000 hours of service each year.

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program, I would like to congratulate these dedicated volunteers who share their knowledge, skills and life experience with our children and youth of California.

Sincerely,

  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.