

Classroom Foster Grandparents Getting Back to School



It is the start of a new school year and the Classroom Foster Grandparent volunteers are getting back to service. Many Classroom Foster Grandparents were not able to serve last school year due to COVID-19 safety guidelines. This year the Classroom Foster Grandparent volunteers are eager to serve in their communities.

The 2021-2022 school year will have forty-four Classroom Foster Grandparent volunteers heading out to schools, day care centers, Head Start

centers, food banks and libraries in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Tioga Counties. Classroom Foster Grandparent volunteers will serve over one hundred fifty children with special or exceptional needs during this school year.

Service activities for Classroom Foster Grandparents include; mentoring students in-person, making take-home activities for students, support the preparation and/or delivery of meals to students, support the development of student packets, mentor students virtually, create video demonstrations, provide life skills lessons, read books with children, and support connection to education resources for both students and parents.

The AmeriCorps-Senior Foster Grandparent Program is a volunteer mentoring program that assist the community's schools and children. Classroom Foster Grandparent volunteers provide love and guidance to children and youth with special and exceptional needs at volunteer stations across Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Tioga Counties. Classroom Foster Grandparents work one on one and in small groups under the supervision of a classroom teacher.

To become a Classroom Foster Grandparent volunteer one needs to be 55 or older, be income eligible and enjoy working with children. Classroom Foster Grandparents receive a small stipend, clearances, travel and training. Classroom Foster Grandparents can serve from 5 to 40 hours per week.

For more information on the AmeriCorps-Seniors Foster Grandparent Program and other B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. services please call 1-800-982-4346. The B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. The Foster Grandparent Program is sponsored by the B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. and federally funded by AmeriCorps. Funding also provided by the Bradford County United Way, the Susquehanna County United Way and the Lycoming County United Way serving Lycoming, Susquehanna, and Tioga Counties.

Photo: A Classroom Foster Grandparent helps a student with schoolwork.