



William James once said, "The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it." Mary Jane Slater lived by this quote; year after year, classroom after classroom, she was with "her kids" at the W. R. Croman Elementary and numerous children's summer programs. She absolutely loved being with, what she called, "my kids" as a Foster Grandparent. Mary Jane was two months shy of nineteen years serving as a Foster Grandparent. She was the longest serving Foster Grandparent in the Pennsylvania counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Tioga. Think about that, she guided kindergartners and first graders to be the best they could be, for almost a whole generation of time. How many of these students have advanced to the next grade, graduated from college, received rewards, have successful lives, because Mary Jane Slater helped them to learn to read, reviewed their spelling words with them, helped them with their math assignments, told them they were worth something, and made learning fun? How many of these precious lives have memories of Mary Jane, when they ponder their early school years?

Here are a few thoughts from Mr. Scott Oldroyd (Kindergarten and 1st Grade Teacher at W. R. Croman, whose classroom Mary Jane Slater served in for many years):

Loving and caring come to mind when thinking of Mary Slater. She was an avid reader and modeled that for the children. She also gave the best hugs! Some children need a little extra support when coming into the school setting. Mary was that buffer with her hugs and kind words. Mary's love of crafting allowed the students one-on-one time with her to give them positive reinforcement and encouragement not only with crafting but with school work as well. She was a great Foster Grandparent and lady! She will be greatly missed!

We lost Mary Jane, on June 20th of this year and she is greatly missed, both in the classroom and in the Foster Grandparent Program. *Shannon Adler once said, "Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you."* Mary Jane' legacy did just that, may her gift of love shine in all the hearts and lives she has touched through the years. Can we, "her kids", her teachers, fellow Foster Grandparents and staff, extend her life, by using her example of caring, kindness, and drive in our lives?

Perhaps you, like Mary Jane, have a heart full of love, and would like to share it with students in a school or Head Start close to your home. The Foster Grandparent Program can make this possible for income eligible people 55 years of age and older.

Not only do you receive an opportunity to enhance youngsters' school days. The Foster Grandparent Program provides income eligible seniors a tax free monetary stipend, paid time off, reimbursement for travel to and from school. Don't drive? No problem, we can provide transportation.

Please call Area Agency on Aging and ask about the Foster Grandparent Program
570-265-6121, or toll free 1-800-982-4346

The Foster Grandparent Program is federally funded by AmeriCorps Seniors. The Foster Grandparent Program is sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging for Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Tioga counties.

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For additional information on Area Agency on Aging services, please call 1-800-982-4346.