New York State Senator, 35th District ANDREA President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS Special Message

Dear Friend,

There are many grandparents in Westchester who have become primary caregivers for their grandchildren. They take on this vital role because the parents cannot care for them. Rather than having them placed in foster care, these grandparents face unending challenges and sacrifice their own needs for the children they love. When the holiday season approaches, many spend what little cash they have to try to make sure their grandchildren have presents. They, themselves, often go without.

That's why six years ago, I created what has become my annual Angel Project: to bring holiday cheer to these forgotten grandparents. The Angel Project matches these caregivers, who submit wish lists to my office, with volunteer "angels" who purchase the gifts for them. Last year, during the height of the COVID epidemic, our generous "angels" donated gifts to 192 grandparents.

I hope you will consider joining me, my staff and others and become an "angel" this year. If so, please fill out the attached form, or call my district office at (914) 423-4031 for more information. You can also email us at stewartcousinsangelproject@gmail.com.

Once again, we are partnering with Family Service Society of Yonkers, Family Ties of Westchester, and other agencies in my District. These agencies ask the grandparents they serve to submit their holiday wish list of up to three items or a gift card (totaling no more than \$75). We then forward to each "angel" the list from their grandparent.

We ask that all gifts be received at my office, 28 Wells Avenue, 5th Floor, Yonkers, NY 10701 no later than Wednesday, December 16th. Presents should be wrapped or put in a gift box and labeled with your name and the name of your grandparent. If you plan to have the gift or gift card mailed or delivered to the district office, please ensure it will arrive in time. Delivery services like Amazon do not deliver to the district office on weekends or after 5 p.m.

Your generosity will bring joy to a grandparent this holiday season. Thank you so much.

Happy Holidays,

andrea Stewart-Cousin