



## **News for Immediate Release**

**Sept. 7, 2012**

### **Secretary of Aging Recognizes National Grandparents Day, Highlights Foster Grandparent Programs**

**Harrisburg** – Secretary of Aging Brian Duke today urged all Pennsylvanians to recognize National Grandparents Day on Sept. 9 and encouraged involvement with the Foster Grandparent Program.

“You don’t have to be a grandparent to make Grandparents Day a little grander,” said Duke. “Sharing your wisdom, perspectives, and talents with a young person through the Foster Grandparent Program is a way to make a difference not only in a child’s life, but your own.”

This federal program has supplied foster grandparents since 1965 to work in schools, hospitals, correctional facilities, Head Start programs and daycare centers. They help children develop skills, confidence and strength to succeed in life.

The programs are sponsored through Area Agencies on Aging, Senior Corps, county offices and other organizations.

Pennsylvania has 12 active Foster Grandparent programs that provide support to children and youth in need.

The Foster Grandparent Program of Central Pennsylvania began in 1966. It was one of the first programs and served as a pilot for others. It offers support for youth in four counties with the help of 125 active foster grandparents who range from 55 to 91 years of age.

In order to qualify for the Foster Grandparent Program, older adults must be 55 or older and be willing to spend 15 to 40 hours per week, providing guidance, reading stories, or teaching skills. Program participants can earn a tax-free hourly stipend.

To find information on a Foster Grandparent Program, visit [www.aging.state.pa.us](http://www.aging.state.pa.us).

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**Editor’s Note:** A list of the Foster Grandparent Programs in Pennsylvania follows below (programs marked with asterisks are administered through the local Area Agency on Aging):

Berks County\*\*  
633 Court St., 8th Floor  
Reading, PA 19601-4303  
610-478-6500

Blair County\*\*  
1320 12th Ave.  
Altoona, PA 16601  
814-946-1235

Cambria County\*\*  
110 Franklin St., Suite 400  
Johnstown, PA 15901  
814-539-5595

Delaware County\*\*  
206 Eddystone Ave.  
Eddystone, PA 19022  
610-490-1498

Erie County  
Greater Erie Community Action Committee  
18 W. Ninth St.  
Erie, PA 16501  
814-459-4581

Bradford/Sullivan/Susquehanna/Tioga counties\*\*  
220 Main St., Unit # 2  
Towanda, PA 18848  
570-265-6121

Southwestern PA - American Red Cross of SWPA  
225 Blvd. of the Allies  
P.O. Box 1769  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230  
412-263-3168

York County  
134 W. Market St.  
York, PA 17401  
717-846-4600

Montgomery County  
Community Progress Council  
Family Services of Montgomery County  
3125 Ridge Pike  
Eagleville, PA 19403  
610-630-2111

Luzerne/Wyoming counties\*\*

93 N. State St.

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

570-822-1159

Philadelphia

Mayor's Office of Community Services

990 Spring Garden St., 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19123

215-685-3627

Union-Snyder counties\*\*

(Foster Grandparent Program of Central Pennsylvania)

1000 U.S. Route 522

Selinsgrove, PA 17870

570-374-9196

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