



Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program
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Green Mountain
FGP



National
Senior
Service Corps

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Our Sponsor:



Green Mountain Foster Grandparents are people age 55 or over who provide one to one and group assistance with children. Grandparents serve as mentors, tutors and role models to youth. Foster Grandparents provide 15–40 hours of volunteer service each week. They receive a modest stipend and other benefits. Foster Grandparents provide services in a variety of settings. These include daycare, elementary schools, high schools, Head Start Programs, libraries, after school programs and recreation centers. This program serves Rutland, Addison and Bennington Counties. It is the goal of the program to enable limited income persons 55 and over to remain physically and mentally active and to enhance their self-esteem through continued participation in needed community service. In addition, this will enable children to achieve improved physical, mental and social development, as well as assistance with their educational needs. The Foster Grandparent program is funded through the Corporation for National & Community Service and the United Way of Rutland County.

JULY



FGP News!



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Meet Judy Brown

Judy was born in Cedar Springs, MI. She graduated high school in 1958.

Judy's father worked for the County Road Commission and her mother worked at a doctor's office, cleaned at banks and cooked for two restaurants. Judy had 5 brothers and 3 sisters. Her eldest brother lived in Chicago and worked in a large milk dairy; her second brother was an electrician in Sparta, MI; her third brother lived in Indiana and also worked in a dairy; her next brother lives in CA and is a carpenter and the youngest brother worked for Standard Oil in Chicago. Judy is the 6th child in the family and the second daughter. Her older sister lived in Grand Rapids, MI and worked at Gen-

eral Motors Company; her younger sister lived in Rockford, MI and worked at Wolfert Shoe; and the youngest sister in the family lives in Sand Lake, MI and worked at Keeler Brass in Cedar Springs. Whew! Lots of siblings to deal with growing up!

Judy has four sons, Mark, Grant, Philip and Charley. Mark is in the excavating business, Grant was in the service for 23 years, Philip is a home builder, and Charley has worked for UPS for 25 years. Judy's husband is Frank Loso.

Judy has worked all her life in various jobs. She has worked in a truck stop restaurant, was a bus driver at a Christian School in Indiana, worked as a "parapro" at the same school, worked in a day



Judy Brown

care, at Dunkin Donuts and at Tasty Bakery in Rutland. She also worked at the Freihoffer Bread Shop and cleaned homes. Her favorite job was working with the students at the Christian School in Indiana and her worse job was as a bus driver!

Judy plays a keyboard and sings at church and also likes to travel.

Once Judy retired she found sitting at home and doing nothing made her feel depressed. Her sister-in-law suggested that she

"The sure-fire, top five components of Happiness:

1. The basics: food, shelter, good health, safety.
2. Get enough sleep.
3. Have relationships that matter to you.
4. Take compassionate care of others and of yourself.
5. Have work or an interest that engages you."

—Amy Bloom

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Judy Brown (cont. from page 1)

contact the Foster Grandparent Program and in September of 2014, Judy started at Northeast School in the Kindergarten Room with teacher Geri Bruso. "My favorite thing about being a grandparent is that I am helping those who need it," says Judy. She is greatly loved and appreciated by her teacher and students and the Northeast School community. Judy is very low key and quiet and a very hard worker. She is extremely kind and giving. She says that giving herself to others has changed her life.

As a child Judy always wanted to be a Teller or Phone Operator. Her favorite toy was a doll because she could pretend to be a Mommy. Her favorite teachers were her 9th grade English teacher, Music teacher and Speech teacher.

The most influential person in her life was her father. "He wanted to make sure that each one of us could do any job that we needed to do," says Judy.

The most important lesson Judy has learned in life is to be true, honest and kind to all that she knows. It is obvious that Judy lives each day with that in mind as her relationships with people consistently demonstrate these values. We are so glad that Judy became a volunteer foster grandparent with our program and hope that she continues for many years to come!

Hobbies: Sewing, crochet, plastic crafts

Likes: Helping people in need

Dislikes: Grumpy Adults

Favorite Movie: Does not like movies

Favorite Singer/Music: Bing Crosby, all kinds of music

Favorite Book or Authors: The Bible



FGP Openings

Tapestry—After School Programs West Rutland 3:00 to 5:30 & Proctor Elementary 2:15 to 5:15
Castleton Elementary School—Library position to include shelving books, helping children find books, computer assistance.

Sacred Heart School—Bennington, positions available in classrooms. Must complete safe environment protocol and background checks through the school.

Grace Christian School—Bennington, Combined 3rd/4th Grade classroom needs grandparent to work with students

West Rutland School — West Rutland Kindergarten class needs active grandparent for fast-paced classroom of 5 year olds.

Clarendon Elementary — Kindergarten class needs a fun-loving, take initiative grandparent who is active and able to meet classroom needs

VAC — Red Room (2 year olds) and Brown Room (4 year olds). Very active children need loving, consistent grandparent as role models and mentors. Patience, kindness and tolerance a plus.

Grace Preschool—Preschool age children need a caring, attentive grandparent who takes initiative and works well with staff and others.



Notes from Nan



Summer has arrived with a bang as we all have noticed with this crazy heat wave. I hope all of you are staying as cool as possible and please remember to hydrate. One of the biggest health issues with heat like this, is dehydration. As we age our sense of thirst diminishes and so we may not even realize how much our bodies crave water until it is impacting our health. Drink generous amounts of water throughout the day. All of that said I do hope that you will take some time to fully appreciate the beauty of our region by taking a nice walk, sharing a picnic, heading to a State Park for the day or just sitting outside and inhaling the wonderful air!

I wanted to let you know we also got our Notice of Grant Award from our Federal funder and our program is fully funded for the next year so that is welcome news.

Remember that summer is also a good chance to consider doing some of the Independent In-service options you have. If you have any questions about that just give us a call. I would also suggest that you pull out that Volunteer Handbook that many of you have likely not perused since early in your service and review it. It is a nice way to go over the various policies, etc. that are part of the FGP operation. You will be glad you did!

Lastly, for those of you serving over the summer, deepest gratitude for your steadfast work and dedication! There are many children in need of services year round and your assistance is greatly appreciated by all of those who you serve! —Nan



New Grandparent



"Miss Barb" as she is known by the children at Lothrop School has worked for the Abbey Group in the lunchroom at Lothrop School for several years.

Barbara Alexander started on May 14, 2018 in the Kindergarten classroom with Mrs. Mary Desforges. She will also be helping out in the second Kindergarten classroom with Tammy Blanchard as needed.

In her spare time Barb likes to watch sports on TV, play Bingo, and help with meals at the church. She also shovels her own snow during the winter and mows her own lawn. "I like to keep busy and it's good for me to do physical stuff for health reasons," she says. Welcome Barbara!