



Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program
16 North Street Extension
Rutland, VT 05701

AmeriCorps
Seniors



AmeriCorps
Seniors
Green Mountain FGP

16 North Street Extension
Rutland, VT 05701
Phone: 802-774-8711
Email: debfgp@gmail.com

79 Court Street Suite 7
Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: 802-388-7044
Email: rsvpfgp@gmail.com

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 10–40 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.





FGP News!



Volume 20, Issue 3

July 2023

Meet Wanda McNew

Wanda was born in Lincoln, Nebraska and grew up in the country between Omaha and Lincoln. She attended Nebraska Wesleyan University and majored in Psychology, graduating in 1974. She thought about going into nursing at one point, but moved to CO instead. She was looking for work and saw a help wanted sign in a window and began working for Atmel making integrated circuits in a photolithography lab in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Wanda's mother was a stay at home Mom and her father had a soil conservation business. He built dams, terraces and waterways for farmers. Wanda is the second of eight children. They live

in various places across the US from New England to Colorado, Tennessee, and Washington State.

Wanda was married for 22 years. Her husband died at age 46 in 1998. They have two daughters, Heather Leigh, who lives in Fair Haven, VT and Katie Kellarney, who lives near San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Wanda has two dogs: Sadi a 16 year old female border collie/pitbull mix; and Bandit, a 16 year old male dachshund mix.

She is most proud of her children and grandkids. The defining moment that changed her life was her husband and best friend dying in 1998.

Wanda misses her home state and



Wanda McNew

says she probably would not move to Vermont if she could do it over again.

Her mother was the most influential person in her life. "She raised eight children and enjoyed making us her priority," says Wanda.

Her favorite toy as a child was her jump rope! Mrs. Hult was her favorite teacher growing up. She had her for 5th and 6th grades. "She was a red-head and so much fun!" Wanda notes.

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." —John Lubbock

Inside this issue:

Meet Wanda McNew	Page 1
McNew (cont).	Page 2
Volunteer Openings	Page 2
Note from Maryesa	Page 3
Volunteer Appreciation	Pg. 4
Humor & a Leprechaun	Pg. 5
Recognition Event	Pg. 5
FGP Info	Page 6

Wanda McNew (cont. from page 1)

The most fun she ever had was going to Ireland for 11 days. The craziest thing she has ever done was selling her home in Colorado in 2017. Some of the lessons Wanda has learned in life are: be non-judgmental, don't put things off because life is short, be kind to others, and be kind to yourself! Being around a lot of older people, Wanda noticed a void in her life and she missed young people, so she decided to join the Volunteer Foster Grandparent Program. She has been volunteering at Poultney Elementary School with Kay Mahoney's second grade classroom and really enjoys it.

A warm welcome to our newest grandparent, Wanda McNew! We are very pleased to have you join us Wanda.



Hobbies: Learned to ski in Colorado

Likes: Sunsets, time with family

Dislikes: Humidity, fake people, being alone so much, feeling like an outsider

Favorite Singer/Music: Beatles and Jazz

Favorite Author:

Favorite Book: Non-fiction books

Favorite Movie: "What Dreams May Come" with Robin Williams

Favorite Actor/Actress: Robin Williams



Volunteer Possibilities

Tapestry—After School Programs West Rutland 3:00 to 5:30 & Proctor Elementary 2:15 to 5:15

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

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

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

RCPC—Rutland site needs active grandparent willing to volunteer with pre-school, 2-3 year olds and younger children. Lots of play, action & up & down abilities involved! Patience and flexibility a plus.

Other: Other openings possible dependent on school needs.



The Skill of Humor—April In-service

Our in-service in April focused on the use of humor in daily life. It is particularly important to use with kids. Andrew Tarvin is the world's first Humor Engineer teaching people how to get better results while having more fun. Humor is something that transcends most barriers. It is a common unification; a concept understood by all. Our grandparents seemed to enjoy this Ted Talk and we even saw a few smiles and heard some chuckles!



March Leprechaun!



Grandma Amy Worcester got her Irish on for St. Patrick's Day in March. We love the pigtails Amy!



Tom Estill & Bea Bowen discuss birdhouses & feed!



Recognition Event 2022-2023

On June 21st we celebrated grandparent's years of service at the Chaffee Art Center with a pot luck picnic. There was tons of wonderful foods and a special cake and ice cream to round out the day. Thank you to all those who participated and brought in yummy dishes! Those who were honored for their years of service were:

Deb Suttle—5 years of service

Chris Gray, Naomi Drummond, Bea Bowen & Sherman

Mason—10 years of service

Carol Marold—15 years of service. Congratulations!



Top right: Susan Harding & Suzanne Boyle.

Left: Julie Austin & Jodie Lunna

Bottom right: Jody Liebhaver, Chris Gray, Pat Tyree, & Amy Worcester



Volunteer Appreciation

April 17th through 21 was National Volunteer Appreciation Week. We hope you saw the ad in the paper thanking our grandparents for their many contributions to our communities in Rutland, Bennington and Addison Counties. Below are some photos sent to us by teachers who celebrated their grandparent in their classrooms.



Bea Bowen's class show their love with hand hearts!



Chris Gray gets flowers, a card and a crown for her April 1 birthday.



Donna Beluzzi's preschoolers think she is the best!



Loraine Sweeney and her teacher, Krista Doyle, celebrate together during April.



**OUR GRANDPARENTS
ARE AWESOME!!!**



Notes from Maryesa



Happy Summer everyone! I was so happy that I have been able to get to know everyone a little better the past few months. The stories that everyone has shared with me about the work you have been doing are amazing. I always love to hear the stories.



My major goal for our program this Summer is to do some major recruitment. If you have friends or know of someone who may be interested, please send them our way. Also, if you are interested in picking up more hours when school starts, please let us know.

I am excited to announce that we have a new program coordinator starting the week of July 10th. Her name is Johanna. She will be helping Deb with our program like Lynn use to do. She will be assisting with special projects and with the FGP stations/volunteers in Addison County. She will also be helping with special projects for RSVP as well in Rutland County.

Just a reminder that when school starts again, we need to make sure that we follow what we are allowed and not allowed to do per our regulations/rules. This is something the Feds like us to remind everyone about. I know that some of you are still working this summer, which is amazing. We just wanted to provide a quick reminder and we will provide a quick refresher in the Fall once school starts.

I want to take a moment to thank every one of you for your hard work and dedication to the program. I know that schools had many regulations regarding COVID and every one of you acclimated very well. I know that this has also been a hard year for many schools with behaviors as well, and you all did an terrific job handling these situations.

I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy Summer. Enjoy some much needed you and family time. I know I will enjoy my Summer with my kids we have many different magical adventures that await.

As always if you need anything please let us know. —Maryesa

