

Foster Grandparent Gazette

November/December 2009

Written and Compiled by Meridith Mertzluft



Foster Grandparent Annual Holiday Party

This year's annual Foster Grandparent Program Recognition Holiday Party was held at the brand new Hilton Garden Inn off of Hoosick Street in Troy. When the Foster Grandparents first arrived they were able to enjoy a nice appetizer spread.

All of the Foster Grandparents from the seven different counties came together and enjoyed a delightfully delicious buffet meal. Accompanied by the local favorite DJ Bob Treffiletti. There was even a little bit of dancing from a couple of participants.

Karen Gordon executive

director of CEO and Mary Broderick Foster Grandparents Program Manager both spoke and commended our Foster Grandparents for their service to their local communities. After the Foster Grandparent's enjoyed their meals and dessert they were able to take pictures by the Christmas tree and mingle with other Foster Grandparents.



Yakov V, Boris P, Tsilya V, Monya



Mikhal Sigal and Annie Lane



Liz H, Ruth W, Cyndi D, Peggy P



David F, Spartak D, Mikhal S, Anatoliy N, Boris Shurin

Foster Grandparent Nov / Dec Birthdays!



Liz Head	11/3
Annie Lane	11/8
Cyndi Dunham	11/12
Mila Sokol	11/14
Johnetta Davis	11/17
Doris Mattice	11/20
Maryann Finley	11/25
<u>Genevieve Ferrell</u>	<u>11/29</u>
Sandy Yong	12/5
Janet Olukayode	12/10
Jean Hamlin	12/17
Raisa Polynskaya	12/20
Jackie Nash	12/23
Ann McGuirk	12/24
Peggy Pilbeam	12/31

If I'm missing anyone's Birthday my deepest apologies

Tribute to Grandma Dotti Pafundi

Pafundi, Dorothy M. WATERVLIET Dorothy "Dottie" M. Connelly Pafundi, 85, died Thursday, December 3, 2009 at Samaritan Hospital in Troy. Born in Mechanicville on June 1, 1924, she was the daughter of the late Francis and Beatrice Light Connelly Sr. She was raised and educated in Mechanicville and lived in Albany before moving to Watervliet many years ago. She was employed as a waitress at Valente's Restaurant in Watervliet and was a teacher's aide at the Watervliet Elementary School for 25 years before retiring last year. She was known as "Grandma Dottie" and "Miss Dottie" to all the kids and was involved in the foster grandparent program at the school. She was an active member of the Watervliet Lodge of Elks #1500 Ladies Auxiliary and served as president from 1979-80 and 2006-07. She was also a Chief Gray Back of the Cootiette Club #136 and volunteered at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany. She was the beloved wife of the late Theodore A. Pafundi who died in 1987; devoted and loving mother of Richard (Vel) Bleau of North Dighton, Mass., Edward (Maria) Sapienza of Latham and the late Santo Sapienza; sister of Arthur (Anne) Connelly of Fla., John Connelly of Fla., Joan French (Pete Giacobba) of Troy, Laura (William) Teasdale of Ga., Joseph Connelly of Albany, Irene (late James) Wood of Fla. and the late Edward and Francis Connelly, Elizabeth Klein and Carol Wood. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren and is the special grandmother of Carla Sapienza of Latham. Companion and friend of Bill Hayes of Watervliet. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. The funeral will be Monday at 11:15 a.m. from the Bowen & Parker Bros. Funeral Home, 97 Old Loudon Road, Latham and at 12 noon at St. Patrick's Church, Watervliet where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Troy. Relatives and friends are invited and may call at the Bowen & Parker Bros. Funeral Home Sunday 3-6 p.m. Contributions may be made to the Watervliet Elks Special Projects Fund, 501 4th Avenue, Watervliet, NY 12189. Condolence book at BowenFuneralHome.com



I was sent to New Mexico to learn about Disability Inclusion for the National Service Inclusion Project

I know when you hear New Mexico you think a nice warm desert... I know I did. Well to tell you the truth in December it was the furthest thing from a warm desert. So with that said, I was sent to New Mexico for a Disability Inclusion Training for the National Service Programs. Since the Foster Grandparent Program is apart of the Senior Corps program that is why I got to go.

I learned more about the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act which allowed the requirements for the Foster Grandparent program to change. In order to increase the number of people

with disabilities serving, the Act includes language which encourages programs to collaborate with organizations with a demonstrated expertise in supporting and accommodating individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life. The program can accommodate people (with in reason) who do have disabilities and that want to be apart of the Foster Grandparent Program and help them to join .

The FGP was also authorized to serve children “having special or exceptional needs or with conditions or circumstances identified as limiting their academic, so-

cial, or economic development.”

(Previously, the FGP only authorized to serve children “having special or exceptional needs”).

That is what is reflected in a Foster Grandparent’s Volunteer Assignment Plan (VAP). It was a great experience and I felt privileged to have been able to do it.



Up Coming Foster Grandparent Training

We have elected to have your required training for the Troy Area on

JANUARY 15th 8-4.

CEO JLB Building

3rd Floor

Call Michelle 272-6012 ext 311 to let her know your coming.

We will be scheduling Albany and Schenectady training shortly after and will be notifying you the locations.

The Reminder Section



First thing we need to you to remember when your filing out your timesheet and it’s a CEO holiday such as the 24th and the 25th of December you fill out the number of hours that you normally work on those days in the holiday leave boxes. We can only pay you holiday pay if you normally work on those

days. You also do not get mileage for holidays since you are not traveling to work.

Second reminder is if you refer a friend and they work in the Foster Grandparent program for 6 weeks then you get a bonus of \$35.

Third if you’re going to be

out due to illness or a doctor’s appointment then you need to use your pool leave. But that you need to call your site and let them know your not coming in and then you need to call your case manager so that we know what to expect on your timesheet.

ADMIN LEAVE POLICY

For December school closings you will have a maximum of **4 ADMIN** days. Any other school closings, including snow days, you must use your pool leave. Holidays

will be paid according to your FGP manual. Which you can find on page 28 in your manual. If you have any questions about the Admin leave policy you may call the

office 272-1006.