



Foster Grandparent Gazette July/Aug 2010

Written and compiled by Meridith Mertzlufft



New Paid Time Off Policy/ Fidelis Training

In July there were several trainings on the new Paid Time Off Policy and information on Fidelis coverage. The trainings were held in Troy, Albany, Schenectady, and Hoosick Falls.

The New PTO policy is put in place instead of Pool Time. Foster Grandparents no longer have to earn their time off. The new policy gives a lump sum in the beginning of the year (based off of years of service) and in the middle of the year. Paid Time Off (PTO) is for the benefit for the purpose of providing the Foster Grandparents with the opportunity to take time away from their volunteer assignment

without loss of stipend. PTO can be used for sick time, vacation, holiday, bereavement, bad weather, administrative days, ect... This Policy is designed to encompass **any absence** from the work site, regardless of reason. Just as a reminder that your PTO **may not be** carried forward from one calendar year to the next.

Foster Grandparents are responsible for monitoring and taking their PTO over the course of the year so that they do not lose any time provided during the calendar year. Foster Grandparents are also responsible for signing in and signing out of their work site everyday that they are there.

The Fidelis ladies were great and answered so many questions about medicade and other insurance questions. Along with sharing with what benefits they offer.



Tip on how to be an active listener with children: Don't interrupt. This is a common conversational rule that is often broken. Do your best not to cut into the middle of a speaker's turn to talk

Social Service Problems, thinking that the Foster Grandparent Program is work???

Call your case manager and we will be more than happy to fax over the law. But Please give us a name and number to call.

Meridith 272-6012 EXT 315

Laura 272-6012 EXT 311

In Memory of Grandma Sandra Young

1940-2010 BENNINGTON Sandra A. Young, 69, a former long-time resident of County Street and more recently of Eagle Bridge, New York, died Thursday, July 8, 2010 at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center following a long battle with cancer.

Born in Bennington December 5, 1940 she was the daughter of the late Frederick and Loretta Marcoux LaFranchise. She received her education in the Bennington schools and was a 1959 graduate of Bennington Catholic High School.

In earlier years Sandy was employed at P & C market and later at Hannafords for many years. She most recently worked in the Foster Grandparents Program at the Cambridge, N.Y. Central School.

Sandy enjoyed reading and was a volunteer with the Hannaford team in many **Relay For Life** events. She also enjoyed good times spent with her friends, Joan, Pat, Robin, Ronnie, Carolyn and Kathy and her cat Nicky.

Survivors include her children, Christine Lybert (Greg) of Buskirk, New York, Sharon Brooks and her

husband Dennis of Bennington, John "Jay" Young of Bennington and S/SGT Brian Young, US Army, Baghdad, Iraq and his wife Christy of Fort Drum, New York; ten grandchildren, Ashley and Jesse J. Lybert, Lindsay, Whitney and Dennis II Brooks; Amber and Brooke Young and Dylan, Madisyn and Payton Young; a sister and brother-in-law, June and Charles Riley of Saranac Lake, New York; an uncle, Lionel Marcoux of Bennington; two nephews and several cousins.

We at the Foster Grandparent Program will greatly miss her.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOSTER GRANDPARENTS

Barbara Franklin	7/24
Judy Lanzone	7/28
Diane Link	7/12
Alice Shiland	7/14
Solomon Volfson	7/27
Lina Gnetova	8/15
Rosa Gomez	8/6
Oscar Maxwell	8/24
Julia Twiss	8/5
Geraldine Underdue	8/27
Barbara Williams	8/14



Grandma Ethilda Moody Gets Recognized

On May 8, 2007 Ethilda Moody, also known as Grandma, walked through the doors of the Heery Center for Young Families, bringing with her a sense of humor, a love for children, and much old school Jamaican wisdom.

Grandma is a loving, caring, passionate, feisty young woman (as she says), who fast became a member of the Heery and CMS family.

Grandma has a way of drawing people to her. Whether it is her personality, the goodies in her huge purse, or just that wonderful accent, the children are fascinated by her. Grandma is always reading, singing or sharing stories that are not only interesting to the children, but to the staff as well. Some of those stories are about her many years working for Disney, or her cat Nancy who, by the way, she found

outside of Heery. We always say that Nancy showed up just for Grandma, because she knew that Grandma would take her home and love her.

Grandma pitches in wherever needed, from helping in daycare to assisting with lunch or dinner preparation to giving unsolicited advice and fashion tips to staff and teens alike. She is always refreshingly outspoken and finds herself to be quite hilarious. Grandma and her cane have become a familiar site walking into Heery every morning. What's funny is, we never see that cane as she's book-ing toward the casino...

We at the Heery Center for Young Families have been truly blessed to have such a wonderful person such as Grandma come into our

lives. Thanks, Grandma, for all you do!

<http://www.ccrda.org/ccannualdinner20102.htm>



COMMUNITY MATERNITY SERVICES
Volunteer Award

Reminder Section



As of July 1st there was increase in the partial reimbursement for travel

Mileage is now \$0.25 a mile

Bus is now \$1.50 a day

Taxi is the same

Now that the timesheets are e-mailed to your site supervisors its up to you to let them know what they should put down for each day for travel. Whether it be "B" for bus that day, a "T" for the taxi, or the number of miles for that day.

Also remember for your Paid Time Off (PTO) that you will have to let your site supervisor know if you want to use your PTO time by letting them know on what day and total amount of hours that you would like to use.

Along with this gazette we are also going to be giving out calendars. The calendars are to assist you in keeping track of your Paid Time Off. For instance if you plan on going on vacation put down PTO and how many hours for each day that you will be gone. You do not have to turn this into the FGP office. This will be your tool for showing when you

want to use your PTO time. As always call with any questions. 272-1006

"Use your enclosed Calendars to keep track of your PTO time that you want to take"

Book Corner- Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen - Book Review

By [Erin Collazo Miller](http://bestsellers.about.com/od/fictionreviews/gr/water_elephants.htm), About.com Guide (http://bestsellers.about.com/od/fictionreviews/gr/water_elephants.htm)

The Bottom Line

The pages of *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen burst with rich descriptions and action. You will be drawn into the world of ringmasters, elephants and sideshows. You will also experience the world of nursing homes and old age. You will not want to put *Water for Elephants* down, and when it is over, you will want more.

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen opens with a day of disaster at the circus and Jacob Jankowski admitting he kept a secret from that day for over 70 years. The novel then moves to the ninety-something year old Jacob in a nursing home. As the older Jacob

fights to survive the indignities of old age he recounts the story of his life with the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on earth.

Water for Elephants moves between the story of the traveling circus in 1930 to the story of the older Jacob's fight to maintain sanity. While most of *Water for Elephants* is about the circus, the chapters about the older Jacob provide a depth to the novel and a poignancy to the story that makes the whole book richer and more real.

Gruen researched circuses and animal behavior extensively before writing *Water for Elephants*. Her careful work manifests itself in writing that is descriptive, easy-to-read and

made me feel as if I were part of the circus community. From the whistle of the train to the burn of moonshine against the back of the throat, Gruen engages all the reader's senses.

I fell in love (and hate) with many of the characters as well. As the adventure and details of Jacob's secret unfolds, it is impossible not to become attached to Jacob, Walter, Bobo, Rosie, Marlena.

Highly recommend *Water for Elephants*.

