



CENTRAL MINNESOTA  
FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM  
157 Roosevelt Road Suite 200, St. Cloud, MN 56301  
(320) 229-4588 or toll-free 1-866-895-7992



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## SERVICE DESCRIPTION

**SERVICE TITLE:** Foster Grandparent Volunteer

**PURPOSE:** Provide volunteer service to address needs of children and youth in community non-profit agencies, including schools, early educational programs, day cares, day treatment programs, residential facilities, and social service agencies. Create meaningful relationships with children and youth who have special and/or exceptional needs by providing encouragement and companionship. Provide extra care and attention to children and youth in order to improve their physical, mental, emotional, and social development so they may grow to reach their maximum potential.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Men and women age 55 years or older, whose health meets the demands of the position without detriment to self or children and youth served. Must have a sincere interest in children and youth and able to commit to a minimum of 260 hours or a maximum of 2080 hours annually.

### ROLES AND TYPICAL ACTIVITIES:

- Help children to follow directions, focus, and stay on task to complete work
- Encourage and praise children
- Assist with reading, math, and other academic subjects
- Read to, play games with and tell children stories
- Teach appropriate behaviors and social skills.

### BENEFITS:

- Hourly stipend. The stipend is non-taxable, non-reportable reimbursement that does not affect eligibility for other programs and services
- Travel assistance
- Recognition
- Accident and liability insurance while on assignment
- Stipended time off and designated holidays
- Daily meal at site, when available

**REWARDS:** Make an impact in a child's life. Be needed and feel useful while gaining a sense of accomplishment. Increase self-esteem and socialization with others.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Provide supportive relationships and friendship through acceptance and encouragement. Serve as a non-threatening mentor by participating in activities with children. Foster self-direction and independence while being sensitive to children's feelings and needs. Maintain confidentiality. Set limits with children. Be nonjudgmental, positive, understanding, patient, tactful and kind. Demonstrate good judgment. Show initiative. Be able to maintain written records and report to site promptly. Follow directions and accept supervision by cooperation, communication, and abiding by policies, regulations, and procedures. Dress in neat and clean manner.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** Report to the Foster Grandparent Program Area Supervisor and volunteer station coordinator. The Program is regulated by AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors and the Minnesota Board on Aging. In Central Minnesota the Program is sponsored by Catholic Charities.

**TRAINING:** Orientation and training provided prior to service by FGP staff. Site supervision and training will be ongoing by site staff. Site visits made by Area Supervisor. Monthly in-service training to enhance the volunteer experience and to provide new information related to assignments and personal enrichment.



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