



**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM**

**ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**  
*FY 2017-2018*

**Program Description**

The Seniors Council Foster Grandparent Program serves Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. The Seniors Council has operated the Foster Grandparent Program in Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey since 1993 and in 2009 extended its sponsorship to Santa Clara County. These four contiguous counties cover a geographic area from the southern San Francisco Bay to Big Sur along the Central California Coastline and includes the Silicon Valley, the Salinas Valley and the Monterey Bay Area encompassing approximately 6,403 square miles with a population of just over 2.5 million. Within this Four-County area there are close to 400,000 (16%) older adults 60+ years of age and a student population of just over 485,000 (19%) children in grades K-12. There is a great variety of ethnic diversity including large communities of people with Chinese, Hispanic, Pilipino and Vietnamese ancestry. The Program currently serves the following communities:

<b>Santa Cruz County</b>	<b>San Benito County</b>	<b>Monterey County</b>	<b>Santa Clara County</b>
Aptos	Hollister	Castroville	Milpitas
Boulder Creek	San Juan Bautista	Greenfield	San Jose
Santa Cruz		Monterey	Santa Clara
Watsonville		Pajaro	Sunnyvale
		Salinas	
		Seaside	
		Soledad	

Many school districts in the Four-County area are in a long-term budgetary crisis. Teachers and classroom support personnel are being laid off and class sizes are increasing. Many schools are performing below average as reported by California Assessment of Student Performance Progress. Fifty-eight percent of 3rd graders are not proficient in English Language skills while 28% are English Learner Students (those with a primary language other than English who lack the English language skills necessary for listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing). Foster Grandparents are volunteers who serve 15 - 40 hours per week mentoring and tutoring individual children in pre-schools and elementary schools in our Four-County area. As you will see below, children mentored and tutored by Foster Grandparents improve academically on five skills; academic performance skills, social and emotional development skills, language arts & literacy skills, logic and math skills and small & large motor skills.

While the area is one of the wealthiest in the nation, retirees struggle economically. Based on research for the California Elder Economic Security Index (EESI) by Dr. Steven P. Wallace at UCLA, the estimated monthly income needed for a senior to be Self-Sufficient in the Four-County area is \$2,126 per month. Being "Self-Sufficient" is being able to afford the cost of housing, food,

transportation, health care and other necessities. Our Foster Grandparents average income is just \$1,197 a month. Each Foster Grandparent volunteers an average of 25 hours a week and in return for their substantial contribution they receive a non-taxable stipend of \$2.65/hour. The stipend provides an 18% increase in their annual income. According to a national survey of Foster Grandparents these additional dollars are used primarily to help them cover the cost of housing, utilities, food and medical expenses. In addition, as you will see below, Foster Grandparents improve their ability to continue to live independently as measured by five key indicators: Feelings of Depression, Status of Health, Level of Activity, Experience of Loneliness and Perception of Quality of Life.



The Corporation for National and Community Service provides major funding for the Foster Grandparent. These funds require a 10% match from the local communities. We are fortunate to have enduring partnerships from many community supporters including the following that provided grants during FY 2017-2018:

Monterey Peninsula Foundation	The Harden Foundation
Community Foundation for Monterey County	County and City of Santa Cruz
Community Foundation for San Benito County	United Way of San Benito County
Community Foundation for Santa Cruz County	United Way of Santa Cruz County
Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation	

### **Foster Grandparent Program Community Impact Outcomes**

Jed Emerson Bloomberg of Harvard Business School, writes about SROI or Social Return on Investment, which is a measure of social value creation resulting from the investment of financial or social capital. In other words, investments made by foundations, corporations, government and individual donors have a value that can be measured in terms of the benefit to society. The measurement is related to what is commonly called a “Logic Model” (available upon request), a guide to measure and evaluate service delivery and outcomes. The over-all goal of the Foster Grandparent Program is twofold; one is to improve the academic achievement of economically disadvantaged and special needs preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and the other is to provide a volunteer experience that will enhance the quality of life for low-income seniors. During FY 17-18 a total of 561 students were mentored and tutored by 176 Foster Grandparent volunteers. A total of 80 individual school sites received 179,572 Foster Grandparent volunteer hours. These sites included Head Start, Child Development Centers and first through third grade Elementary School classrooms throughout the Four-County area. The FY 17-18 Impact Report demonstrates that the intergenerational design of the Foster Grandparent Program generates positive results for 3 to 8-year-old school children and the Seniors who serve them as volunteer mentors and tutors.

#### ***Impact Outcomes – Foster Grandparent Volunteers Improve Their Quality of Life***

Each year in the spring, Foster Grandparent Volunteers complete a survey developed with assistance by Applied Survey Research and through collaboration with Dr. Peter Haas, Ph.D. at San Jose State University. The survey is designed to evaluate seniors’ ability to continue to live independently as measured by five key indicators: Feelings of Depression, Status of Health, Level of Activity, Experience of Loneliness and Perception of Quality of Life. Volunteers are asked to

respond to survey questions based on their experience over the past year or since becoming a Foster Grandparent volunteer. Surveys were completed by 163 (92% of those who served) Foster Grandparents in FY 17-18 and revealed the following outcomes on the five key indicators.

1) Change in the Foster Grandparent’s Experience of Depression:

Much Less Depressed	56%
Somewhat Less Depressed	22%
<u>No Change</u>	<u>22%</u>

2) Change in the Foster Grandparent’s Health:

Much Better Health	37%
Somewhat Better Health	31%
No Change	26%
<u>Somewhat Worse Health</u>	<u>6%</u>

3) Change in the Foster Grandparent’s Level of Activity:

Increased Activity	71%
<u>Activity About the Same</u>	<u>29%</u>

4) Change in the Foster Grandparent’s Feelings of Loneliness:

Much Less Lonely	56%
Somewhat Less Lonely	28%
<u>No Change</u>	<u>16%</u>

5) Change in the Foster Grandparent’s Quality of Life:

Much Better	63%
Somewhat Better	26%
<u>No Change</u>	<u>11%</u>

***Impact Outcomes - Academic Achievement***

To measure our academic achievement outcomes the Teacher/Supervisor completes a Assignment Plan (AP's) for each individual student assigned to a Foster Grandparent volunteer. The AP measures the student's academic achievement on five skills; academic performance skills, social & emotional development skills, language arts & literacy skills, logic and math skills and mall & large motor necessary for academic advancement. The AP is completed at the beginning of the school year or at the time of assignment of the student to a Foster Grandparent. The AP identifies the problem(s) impairing the student's academic achievement, the specific mentoring and tutoring activities the Foster Grandparent will engage in with the child to address the problem and the anticipated level of improvement on the five academic skills being targeted. At the end of the school year the Teacher/Supervisor completes the AP by assessing the actual improvement the student achieved and recording those findings on the AP. Program staff then gather the completed AP's and tabulate the outcomes. Assignment

Plans were completed by 100% of Teacher/Supervisors on a total of 561 students at the end of the 2017-2018 school year with the following results.

1) Students' Academic Performance Skills showed:

Some Improvement	24%
Moderate Improvement	54%
<u>Significant Improvement</u>	<u>22%</u>
Total % of Students Improved	100%

2) Students' Social & Emotional Development Skills showed:

Some Improvement	23%
Moderate Improvement	57%
<u>Significant Improvement</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total % of Students Improved	100%

3) Students' Language Arts & Literacy Skills showed:

Some Improvement	25%
Moderate Improvement	45%
<u>Significant Improvement</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total % of Students Improved	100%

4) Students' Logic & Math Skills showed:

Some Improvement	21%
Moderate Improvement	50%
<u>Significant Improvement</u>	<u>29%</u>
Total % of Students Improved	100%

5) Students' Small & Large Motor Skills showed:

Some Improvement	20%
Moderate Improvement	33%
<u>Significant Improvement</u>	<u>48%</u>
Total % of Students Improved	100%

### **Conclusion**

The Seniors Council Foster Grandparent Program is an effective model of an intergenerational program that provides significant benefit to low-income seniors, preschool and elementary students who are struggling to achieve grade level academic success and teachers' ability to create effective learning environments for their students. Research shows that when the generations come together everyone benefits, children and youth, older adults and the community at large. There are clear positive outcomes for all involved. Children are exposed to their elders' traditions and wisdom. And because of these interactions, older adults are able to expand their social networks and stay physically active, which betters their health outcomes. Communities benefit when all are engaged and feel included. In addition, our Foster Grandparent Program helps to dispel age-related myths and stereotypes. At the end of last school year, the students came up to thank Grand Fran for helping out in their classroom. One of his students says, "I love Grandpa Fran. He reads good to me and he talks good. I hope he comes back next year."