

FOIA MARKER

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PROJECT FOSTER GRANDPARENT

A program of

ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

178 Tremont Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111

possibly when
in Boston
7/19-20

NO - travelling
to SFO

April 30, 1993

Mr. Eli Segal
Assistant to the President and
Director of the White House Office of National Community Service
145 OEOB
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

The ABCD Foster Grandparent Program of Boston requests the honor of your presence at our annual Recognition Luncheon to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the program on Friday, June 18, 1993. We are very grateful for a recent grant, to place ten foster grandparents in a Head Start Parent/Child Center in Boston, which the National Community Service Commission awarded our program and would like to acknowledge your efforts on our behalf at our annual event. We certainly hope you can join us and, perhaps, say a word or two or present one of our special awards.

Boston's Foster Grandparent Program is comprised of 126 low-income women and men who volunteer their time - four hours a day, five days a week, all year - to work with special needs children in hospitals, schools, day care centers, battered women's shelters and even a district courthouse. Our newest venture has foster grandparents helping, teaching and working with teen mothers and their babies.

ABCD's foster grandparents are unique mainly for their cultural diversity and, thus, their ability to closely identify with the children they serve. As Boston's ethnic composition changes, barriers of language, culture and attitude are erected throughout the population. Within the Foster Grandparent Program, however, there continues to be a wonderful blend of race and culture as seen through the merging of these wonderful grandparents and children. The program has touched the lives of many women, men and children over the past twenty-seven years. In a society that is daily becoming more diverse as well as more disjointed, it is imperative that meaningful, intergenerational relationships be recognized and encouraged. We strive to do this, through the program all year and through this special luncheon each spring.

The theme of this year's luncheon is "The Best Age is the Age You Are." There is no finer living proof of this than our grandparents. While the average age of the group is 75 years, you will not find a more energetic, lively, vital bunch of seniors anywhere. They are truly something to behold and will not disappoint when you see them attired in their finery and ready to celebrate another year of dedicated, caring service to the community.

In addition to being a wonderful example of volunteerism in America, the Foster Grandparent Program is a truly beautiful model of intergenerational bonding. For over twenty-five years, this special program has bridged the generations of need, providing a unique opportunity for older persons and children to thrive...together. Loving and caring and sharing are what foster grandparents do best. In return, they receive the fulfillment of making a difference in a young life. As we all know, children and elders are the two most vulnerable populations in our society. Yet, joined together, they provide a startling, beautiful vision of hope and love.

We would love to have you join us at this year's luncheon. By joining us on the 18th, you will meet a wonderful group of people and the true heart of the Foster Grandparent Program - the grandparents themselves.

ABCD's Foster Grandparents Program invites you to discover the richness and beauty of this special program. We truly hope you can make it.

ABCD will gladly provide reimbursement for your transportation to Boston and will arrange and pay for your accommodations while you are here. If we can do anything else to facilitate your joining us, please just let me know. My number is (617) 357-6000, x340. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Blackman".

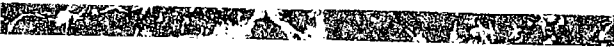
Ruth Blackman
Director, ABCD Foster Grandparent Program

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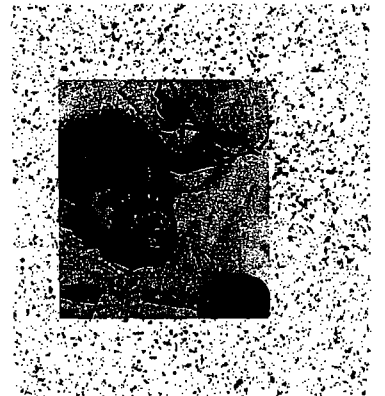
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ABCD Foster Grandparents Pamphlet

Foster
Grand
parents
ARE
PEOPLE
WITTA
PURPOSE

They show their love
of children



Action for Boston Community Development
178 Tremont Street • Boston • MA 02111