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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM  
FROM: SUSAN PORTER  
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has added the following additional event to her May 19, Los Angeles visit in addition to her major event that day:

EVENT: Drop-by Foster Grandparent 10th Anniversary Celebration and Birthday Celebration of Mrs. Pearl Williams, Foster Grandparent, who will be 106 years old that week

GROUP: Foster Grandparent Program

DATE: Monday, May 19, 1975

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Pepperdine University  
Office of the Provost (on expansive lawn)  
7851 South Budlong Avenue  
Los Angeles

CONTACT: Mrs. Alison Gilbert, Director, Foster Grandparent Program  
(213) 971-7546

COMMENTS: May is National Senior Citizen Month and the Foster Grandparent Program will celebrate its 10th Anniversary. The Pepperdine University Foster Grandparent Program has 105 senior citizens involved. One of the members, Mrs. Paul Williams, is the oldest living foster grandparent and will be 106 years old on May 22nd. Their Celebration will begin around 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Ford would like to drop by this event and I believe they would like Mrs. Ford to present a certificate to Mrs. Williams. The Office of the Provost is apparently a lovely old mansion with a beautiful



expansive front lawn. They hope to be able to hold this outside. I have told Mrs. Gilbert that you will be in communication with her and urged her not to involve others (like the press and other community people) until you are in communication with her. I expect this event will be a complement to Mrs. Ford's evening event. There is no file as communications have been done by phone. Thank you.

c: BF Staff  
Red Cavaney  
Warren Rustand  
Bill Nicholson  
James Cavanaugh  
Rex Scouten  
Staircase.



Mrs. Pearl Williams

She is the oldest foster grandparent.  
She will be 106 years old on May 22.  
She was born in Jefferson County, Alabama in 1869.  
She has a living sister, aged 90 ~~and a brother who died at the age of 85~~ She was the 2nd of 5 children  
She was married at the age of 12 to John Williams?  
He died 2 years later.

She married again. ~~Husband~~ Husband's name John W. W.  
He died at age        in 1941.

In the early 1900's she left ~~Kan~~ Kansas <sup>City, Missouri</sup> for California.  
in a covered wagon.

She reared two children---2 daughters. One is still living and is       . She ~~xxxxxx~~ lives with her.

She is in excellent health; although she had cataracts  
Cicely Tyson spent alot of time with her ~~for~~ when she was studying for her part in the Autobiography of Jane Pittman. Cicely Tyson spent time with 5 or 6 women. a few times

She helps supervise the activities of 45 preschoolers/  
together?

There are 105 Senior Citizens in the program.—

over 60 to perhaps 6 low income; Integrated

How old is her daughter?

How many hours a wk does she work?

Does she live with her daughter? Yes,

~~Why-did~~ How did she get to Kansas?

Info on other senior citizens



How many programs like this are there?

*Never enough work in Birmingham*

*Constant work & warm weeks kept her moving*

*Considered one of the most leading organized groups something they go to 5 of <sup>children</sup> institutions in C.A.*

For immediate release  
Sunday, May 18, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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Mrs. Ford will take part in ceremonies honoring Mrs. Pearl Williams, the nation's oldest foster grandparent, at the Office of the Provost on the Pepperdine University urban campus in Los Angeles at 2 p.m. Monday, May 19.

The occasion is Mrs. Williams' 106th birthday, being celebrated in conjunction with Pepperdine University's annual Foster Grandparents Day. May is national Senior Citizens' Month.

Participants in the ceremonies: Mrs. William French Smith, member of the ACTION National Advisory Council; Donald Brown, regional director for ACTION; Mrs. Williams; and a musical selection by Wisdom, a chorus of Pepperdine University students; Dr. Bill Banowsky.

Mrs. Ford will be presented with a foster grandparent pin and will be made an honorary foster grandparent. Meeting Mrs. Ford upon her arrival will be Mrs. Bill Banowsky, wife of the President of Pepperdine University; Dr. James Wilbur, Provost of the Pepperdine urban campus; Mrs. Allison Gilbert, director of the Pepperdine Foster Grandparent Program; and Kenneth Hahn, LA County Supervisor.

The Foster Grandparents Program is part of a nation-wide federally funded ACTION project in which retired persons work with retarded and handicapped children. In return, the retirees receive a stipend and one hot meal a day.

There are 102 retirees participating in the Pepperdine Foster Grandparent program. Requirements are that participants be age 60 or over, low income and in good health. In Los Angeles, Foster Grandparents serve five days a week, four hours per day, in seven institutions serving the mentally retarded, physically disabled, emotionally disturbed and behaviorally disturbed children.

Mrs. Williams has been a part of the Pepperdine Foster Grandparents Program since it began in 1972. She works at the Headstart Center located on the University campus (see attached for additional details on Mrs. Williams).

# # # #

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEPPERDINE AND ACTION TO HONOR NATION'S  
OLDEST FOSTER GRANDPARENT

On May 19 Pepperdine University will help Mrs. Pearl Williams celebrate her 106th birthday as part of Pepperdine's annual Foster Grandparents Recognition Day.

Mrs. Williams is the nation's oldest Foster Grandparent and has been commended by the White House for her energy and longevity. The Foster Grandparent Program is part of a nationwide federally funded project in which retired persons work with retarded and handicapped children. In return, the Grandparents receive a stipend and one hot meal per day.

1975 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program. The Program is under the auspices of ACTION, the federal agency which also oversees the Peace Corps and Vista along with two other programs for retired persons, RSVP and SCORE. Pepperdine's 102 Foster Grandparents are among the 7,500 ACTION volunteers in the Los Angeles area.

Several local officials have been invited to participate in the festivities on Monday.

Mrs. Williams was one of the models used by Cicely Tyson for her Emmy winning portrayal in "The Autobiography of Miss Jane

-more-



PAGE 2

Pittman." She has made appearances on "The Mike Douglas Show" and "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson.

Mrs. Williams works at the Headstart Center located on the Urban Campus of Pepperdine. Other Foster Grandparents work at Martin Luther King Hospital, Foundation for the Junior Blind, Morningside Hospital and the Spastic Children's Foundation.

Pepperdine has administered its Foster Grandparent Program since 1972.

The Recognition Day will take place on the lawn of the home of Dr. James R. Wilburn, Provost and Chief Administrative Officer of the Urban Campus of Pepperdine University. The Urban Campus is located at 8035 S. Vermont Avenue in South Central Los Angeles.

# # #





# FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM



Older Americans Volunteer Programs



"The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."

WILLIAM JAMES



*Foster Grandfather Roy Newton, 71, helps a child in the wood-working shop set up by Foster Grandparents at the Brandon Training School, Brandon, Vermont.*



*Mrs. Flossie Riley, 73, enjoys communicating with a young ward at Ebbetts Hall of the Northern California Youth Center in Stockton, California.*

## ACTION Regional Offices

This is a list of the area offices where you can reach ACTION representatives or you may call Washington, D. C. toll-free (800) 424-8580.

### Region I BOSTON

John W. McCormack  
Federal Building  
Room 1405  
Boston, Massachusetts  
02109

### Region II NEW YORK

26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10007

### Region III PHILADELPHIA

320 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
19102

### Region IV ATLANTA

730 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

### Region V CHICAGO

1 North Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

### Region VI DALLAS

212 No. St. Paul Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201

### Region VII KANSAS CITY

Two Gateway Center  
4th & State—Room 331  
Kansas City, Kansas  
66101

### Region VIII DENVER

514 Prudential Plaza  
1050 17th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

### Region IX SAN FRANCISCO

100 McAllister Street  
San Francisco, California  
94102

### Region X SEATTLE

1601 2nd Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101



# THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

Part of ACTION





*"I spent a lot of lonesome hours before I joined the program but now I have something to look forward to . . . ."*

CLARENCE TOLBERT  
Foster Grandparent Program

### THE PROGRAM

Today, there are thousands of Foster Grandparents who can echo the sentiments of Clarence Tolbert. They are the men and women who have become a part of one of the most productive efforts the federal government has ever undertaken. And they love their work.

The Foster Grandparent Program was established to provide older adults with a useful way to serve their communities in the retirement years and to give them the satisfaction that comes from being needed and serving others.

### THE SERVICE

Foster Grandparents serve in a variety of settings: pediatric wards of hospitals, institutions for the mentally retarded, correctional facilities, homes for the dependent and neglected and institutions for the emotionally disturbed and the physically handicapped.

Each grandparent is assigned two children and devotes two hours a day to each. They receive an hourly stipend, a transportation allowance, daily hot lunches where feasible, annual physical examinations, accident in-

COVER: Mazel Shibles is one of the 40 Foster Grandparents helping children at the Laconia School for retarded children in Laconia, New Hampshire.



*At the Woodbridge State School in Woodbridge, New Jersey, 12 year old Bobby receives love and care from his Foster Grandparent, 73 year old Peter Krumenaker.*

surance, uniforms or smocks where required, and counseling and guidance from their program staff.

### THE PEOPLE

Foster Grandparents come from all walks of life, all states of the union. They have worked as nurses and pullman porters; bookkeepers and truck drivers; housewives and teachers; seamstresses, farmers and carpenters. They are men and women from large cities and small towns who meet the three requirements for participation in the



*Foster Grandmother Fannie Brown, 82, tells a story to a young, bed-ridden patient at the Hazelwood State Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.*

Program: age of 60 or over, low income and good health. There are no educational requirements.

Many Foster Grandparents can remember times of isolation, loneliness and lack of purpose. They are reminded of these times often when they see other retirees sitting alone on park benches, people who can "only think of yesterday." But their own lives are full of tomorrows—they plan for the futures of the children they help, they strike up friendships with other Foster Grandparents and with other institution staff members.

The most qualified judges of the success of Foster Grandparents are the children they help. One child wrote of his Foster Grandmother, ". . . I just wish you hadn't done so much for me because I am going to hate leaving you. I love you like my real grandmother. . . ."

### THE FACTS

If you would like more information on the Foster Grandparent Program, write ACTION, Washington, D.C. 20525 or contact one of the Regional Offices listed on the back cover.



FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM  
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY  
8035 So. Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90044

PLEASE POST



PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY  
URBAN CAMPUS

presents

*The Foster Grandparent Program*  
*part of Action*



FGP, Leon Williams & Foster Grandchild  
Spastic Children's Foundation

## WHAT IS THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM?

Funded by ACTION (the federal citizens service corps). The Foster Grandparent Program was established by the Urban Campus of Pepperdine University to provide older adults with a useful way to serve their communities in the retirement years and to give them the satisfaction that comes from being needed and serving others.

## WHERE AND WHEN DO FOSTER GRANDPARENTS SERVE?

Foster Grandparents serve five days per week, four hours per day in seven institutions serving mentally retarded, physically disabled, emotionally disturbed and behaviorally disturbed children:

CHILDREN'S BAPTIST HOME —  
Inglewood

CONVENT OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
— Los Angeles

FOUNDATION FOR THE JUNIOR  
BLIND — Los Angeles

HEADSTART  
L.A. CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

INTERCOMMUNITY EXCEPTIONAL  
CHILDREN'S HOME — Long Beach

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
GENERAL HOSPITAL — Los Angeles

SPASTIC CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION  
— Los Angeles

WILLOWS RESIDENT SCHOOL AND  
DAY CENTER — Compton



Country's oldest FGP, 104 yr. old Pearl Williams, Foster Grandchild, Willows Resident School & Day Center, Dr. James Wilburn, Provost, Pepperdine University, Los Angeles.

## ELIGIBILITY:

1. Sixty years of age and over.
2. An annual income below poverty guidelines of \$2200 per year if single or \$2900 if married.
3. Good health.

## BENEFITS:

1. Volunteer stipend of \$1.60 per hour.
2. Daily transportation allowance of \$1.00.
3. Annual physical examinations.
4. Daily nutritious meal.
5. Referral to recreational, educational, cultural, health and government community resources.
6. The satisfaction of being needed to serve the community.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Mrs. Alison K. Gilbert, Director, or

Mrs. Faye Pinkett, Administrative Assistant

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

8035 South Vermont Avenue

Los Angeles, California 90044

~~750-5085 or 750-1411 ext. 350~~

971-7546

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8035 So. Vermont Avenue  
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PLEASE POST



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759-5985 or 753-1411 ext. 350



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320 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
19102

### Region IV ATLANTA

730 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

### Region V CHICAGO

1 North Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

### Region VI DALLAS

212 No. St. Paul Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201

### Region VII KANSAS CITY

Two Gateway Center  
4th & State—Room 331  
Kansas City, Kansas  
66101

### Region VIII DENVER

514 Prudential Plaza  
1050 17th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

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100 McAllister Street  
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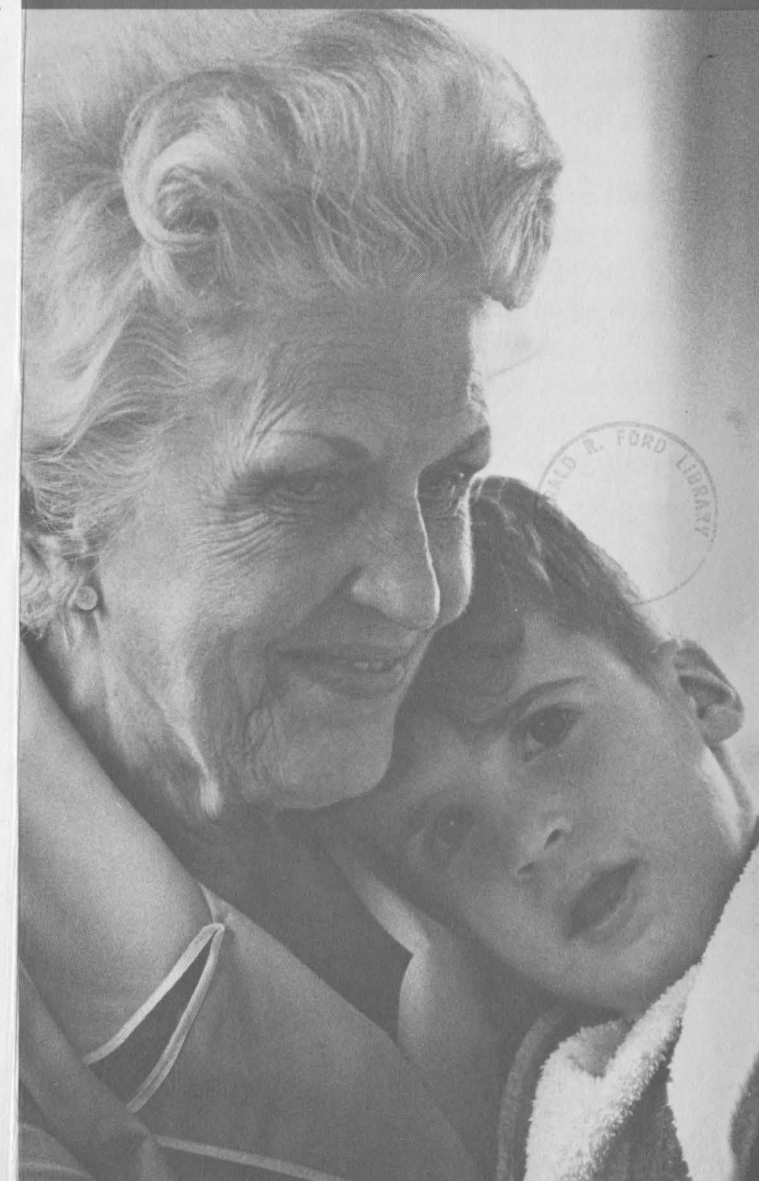
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Pepperdine University  
Los Angeles Urban Campus

## Foster Grandparent Program

cordially invites you to attend

# THE THIRD ANNUAL FOSTER GRANDPARENT RECOGNITION CEREMONIES

and 106th Birthday Celebration of

## PEARL WILLIAMS

the country's oldest foster grandparent

Monday, May 19, 1975 • 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pepperdine University  
Garden, Office of the Provost  
7851 South Budlong, Los Angeles, 90044

R.S.V.P. (213) 971-7546

*10th  
anniv  
of  
natl  
foster  
grandp  
program*



Foster Grandparent Program  
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY  
8035 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90044



For immediate release  
Sunday, May 18, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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The occasion is Mrs. Williams' 106th birthday, being celebrated in conjunction with Pepperdine University's annual Foster Grandparents Day. May is national Senior Citizens' Month.

Participants in the ceremonies: Mrs. William French Smith, member of the ACTION National Advisory Council; Donald Brown, regional director for ACTION; Mrs. Williams; and a musical selection by Wisdom, a chorus of Pepperdine University students; Dr. Bill Banowsky.

Mrs. Ford will be presented with a foster grandparent pin and will be made an honorary foster grandparent. Meeting Mrs. Ford upon her arrival will be Mrs. Bill Banowsky, wife of the President of Pepperdine University; Dr. James Wilbur, Provost of the Pepperdine urban campus; Mrs. Allison Gilbert, director of the Pepperdine Foster Grandparent Program; and Kenneth Hahn, LA County Supervisor.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 2, 1975

*by will present roses + certificates  
(1 a cert of app for dedicated service for LA campus of Pepperdine U  
the other for 3 yrs out serv for balzoro  
don brown-action - guest speaker  
200 people - action*

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM  
FROM: SUSAN PORTER  
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has added the following additional event to her May 19, Los Angeles visit in addition to her major event that day:

EVENT: Drop-by Foster Grandparent 10th Anniversary Celebration and Birthday Celebration of Mrs. Pearl Williams, Foster Grandparent, who will be 106 years old that week

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DATE: Monday, May 19, 1975

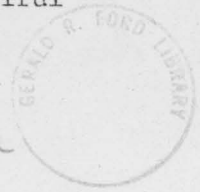
TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Pepperdine University  
Office of the Provost (on expansive lawn)  
7851 South Budlong Avenue  
Los Angeles

CONTACT: Mrs. Alison Gilbert, Director, Foster Grandparent Program  
(213) 971-7546 (714) 627-1803 (China)

COMMENTS: *Annette Fuchs 971-7558 work; 836-0826 home*  
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*how long PW prog who they work w Annette  
(July grant funded)  
Sept 72  
child care instil - 7-thru LA area*



expansive front lawn. They hope to be able to hold this outside. I have told Mrs. Gilbert that you will be in communication with her and urged her not to involve others (like the press and other community people) until you are in communication with her. I expect this event will be a complement to Mrs. Ford's evening event. There is no file as communications have been done by phone. Thank you.

c: BF Staff  
Red Cavaney  
Warren Rustand  
Bill Nicholson  
James Cavanaugh  
Rex Scouten  
Staircase.



# ESSENCE WOMAN: Pearl Williams

Pearl Williams and her husband, John, came to California in a Conestoga wagon over 70 years ago. At 105, Mrs. Williams is still living and working in California, and having the time of her life.

Honored last year on her 104th birthday as the nation's oldest foster grandparent, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors also proclaimed the day "Pearl Williams Day." But Pearl feels each day is special.

Dressed in her long "granny" dresses and high black boots, she looks like everyone's ideal grandmother. Her chipper attitude and spry step belie her



with her only surviving daughter and her family in Los Angeles.

A busy day for Pearl includes a half-day's work at the Head Start Center, a short afternoon nap and helping with dinner. Pearl thrives on activity, and says sprightly, "These young folks shank on the job. They don't want to work. We old folks have to show them somethin' or 'nother." If she shows them her cooking skills, they will have an excellent example of old-time cooking. Pearl still sends all the way to Birmingham for the flour to make biscuits. Pearl also makes quilts, an art she learned when she first

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...that you could depend on year in and year out."

...marriage, including the rearing of the daughters. Mrs. Williams now resides

... Cherokee blood and because the Lord promised me long life."—by Stanley O. Williford



# Older Americans in ACTION

No. 13

July 1973

## Local Programs Honor Volunteers



*At the Governor's Mansion in Augusta, Me., Gwen Knowles, RSVP Coordinator in Bangor, serves tea to (l to r), Mrs. Kenneth M. Curtis, wife of the governor; Mrs. Sophia Bowen, Foster Grandparent; Mrs. Lillian Shorey, RSVP volunteer; Ernest Talbot, volunteer with the state Health & Welfare Dept.; and Arthur Perkins, VISTA volunteer.*

In observance of Senior Citizens Month, ACTION representatives, local program staffers, civic officials, and show business celebrities joined in honoring the volunteers of the Foster Grandparent Program and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

From coast to coast, the dedicated service of ACTION's older volunteers was recognized with awards ranging from certificates to a Presidential brooch.

### 104 Red Roses

The country's older Foster Grandparent, Pearl Williams of Compton, California, was deluged with honors on May 22, her 104th birthday. A local limousine agency donated its services, and Mrs. Williams began the day with a chauffeur-driven ride to a live appearance on a television talk show.

Next stop was a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, where Supervisor Kenneth Hahn proclaimed the day as Pearl Williams Day throughout the county.

Mrs. Williams then proceeded to Pepperdine University, the FGP gran-

tee, and it was there that the awards began to pile up. She received 104 red roses from Dr. James Wilburn, provost of the university's Los Angeles campus. She was presented with an engraved letter of congratulations from President Nixon by Russell Pratt, acting director of ACTION's Region IX. She was "pinned" by Older Americans Volunteer Programs Director Victor Hruska, who presented her with a gold brooch with the Presidential seal from the White House. Susie, the retarded child Mrs. Williams serves as a Foster Grandparent, and Mrs. Ruby Terry, administrator of Willows Resident School and Day Center where Susie lives, presented her with a plaque.

Mrs. Ronald Reagan, wife of the California governor, sent a congratulatory telegram, as did the two physicians with the county health department who give physical examinations to Foster Grandparents. The doctors cabled, "We are grateful for your life and for all that you mean to our community."

Each of Pepperdine's 98 other Foster Grandparents also received certificates

*Cont'd on p. 11*

## Honors—cont'd from p. 1

of appreciation, according to project director Allison Gilbert.

Singer Nancy Wilson emceed the Pearl Williams Day celebrations, while comedian Jackie Gleason entertained more than 2,500 older Americans at a May 14 Salute to Seniors in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Gleason was preceded by OAVP Director Victor Hruska, who briefly described ACTION's programs for older volunteers.

The following day, May 15, Hruska joined acting Region IV director Paul Jones for a tour of Ft. Lauderdale's ACTION projects, and on May 16 the two attended FGP recognition ceremonies. Hruska presented 5-year certificates; and Jones, 3-year certificates to the county's more than 100 Foster Grandparents.

### Joint Venture

Older volunteers were the guests of honor at a May 15 tea at Blaine House, the governor's mansion in Augusta, Maine. Approximately 100 Foster Grandparents and Senior Volunteers from throughout the state were cited for their many hours of service by Mrs. Kenneth M. Curtis, wife of the governor. Maine's 18 senior VISTA volunteers, who serve as outreach workers to the isolated elderly, were also honored in the joint ceremonies.

The first statewide recognition program for Foster Grandparents in Michigan was held on May 25. Foster Grandparents in Detroit hosted their colleagues from throughout the state at a recognition luncheon. Nearly 350 Foster Grandparents listened to speeches by Victor Hruska and Region V OAVP Coordinator Anne Johnson before previewing the new Foster Grandparent Program movie.

In Fergus Falls, Minnesota the Jaycees sponsored a recognition tea for the 16 Foster Grandparents serving at the Fergus Falls State Hospital. Elsewhere, Foster Grandparents were honored at ceremonies in Salt Lake City, Utah;

Tacoma, Washington; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and RSVP volunteers, at ceremonies in Des Moines, Iowa; Morrisville, New York; Jackson, Michigan; Dillsboro, Indiana; and St. Joseph, Missouri.

### Pilot

The Cincinnati RSVP, one of the original eleven pilot programs, hosted a luncheon to celebrate its second anniversary. After proclaiming May 13-19 RSVP Week in Cincinnati, Mayor Theodore M. Berry, 67, was made an honorary Senior Volunteer.

ACTION headquarters staff made an effort to attend all recognition ceremonies to which they were invited. OAVP Deputy Director John Keller addressed an RSVP group in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Foster Grandparent Program Director Ray Schwartz spoke at a recognition ceremony for Foster Grandparents in Nashville, Tennessee; a graduation ceremony for new Foster Grandparents in Owings Mill, Maryland; and the Governor's Conference on Aging in Des Moines, Iowa.

ACTION/OAVP Regional Coordinators also travelled to the celebrations. Region III's Barbara Rosenberg joined Schwartz in Owings Mill. Region IV's Catherine Healy addressed Foster Grandparents in Fort Myers, Florida, and Region V's Anne Johnson spoke to Senior Volunteers in Bensenville, Illinois.

The presence of national and regional staff members was an expression of ACTION's admiration for the contributions of its older volunteers. The vast number of ceremonies—only a few of which have been mentioned here—is an indication of the programs' rapid growth. And the attendance of civic officials is proof that communities across the country recognize the benefits they receive from the service of Foster Grandparents and Senior Volunteers. ■

*See back cover for photographs.*



FROM:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY  
Los Angeles Campus  
8035 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, Ca 90044

213/750-7013 or 753-1411

1973

MAY 22 IS  
"PEARL WILLIAMS DAY"  
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

LOS ANGELES--America's oldest "Foster Grandparent," Mrs. Pearl Williams of Compton, will celebrate her 104th birthday on Tuesday, May 22.

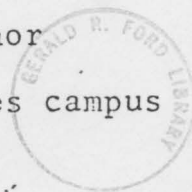
It promises to be the most exciting day in the life of Mrs. Williams, a remarkable lady who says she expects to live to be 200 years old.

Led by Kenneth Hahn, Los Angeles County Supervisors will declare May 22 "Pearl Williams Day" in ceremonies at 11:45 in the Supervisors' headquarters in 500 West Temple Street.

Mrs. Williams will be taken to the Supervisors' office from television station KHJ, where, at approximately 11:00, she will appear on "Tempo," the popular morning program conducted by Regis Philbin.

At 1 p.m., Mrs. Williams will be the guest of honor at a party to be held in Friendship Hall on the Los Angeles campus of Pepperdine University, 8035 South Vermont Avenue.

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More than 100 persons 60 years of age and older will attend the party, during which Mrs. Williams will be cited by city, state, university, and federal officials. A highlight of the party will be the presentation of a huge birthday cake which will be lighted with 104 candles.

Singer Nancy Wilson will be the mistress of ceremonies during Mrs. Williams' birthday party. Pepperdine University will be represented by Dr. James Wilburn, Provost; and Dr. Howard A. White, Executive Vice President.

Mrs. Alison Gilbert will represent the Pepperdine University Foster Grandparent office and will be joined by local, regional, and national representatives of ACTION and the Foster Grandparent Program.

As a Foster Grandparent, Mrs. Williams spends four hours daily serving two mentally retarded children at the Willows Resident School and Day Center in Compton.

"She's very agile," says Mrs. Gilbert. "Her fellow foster grandparents tell me she's just great with the children. When she attended an orientation session, all the other grandparents gave her a standing ovation. She is an inspiration to them."

Mrs. Williams was born on a farm in Jefferson County, Alabama on May 22, 1869. Reared in a religious home, she remains devoutly Christian, attending morning and evening services at least three times each week.

"Always put the Lord first and go out of your way for the other fellow," advises Mrs. Williams, who obviously enjoys her work as a Foster Grandparent.

"The kids are lovely," she says, "and they are crazy about me."

A progressive person who is said to "look no different now than she did in the 1930's," Mrs. Williams ignores the children's handicaps and treats them as if they were normal kids.

When asked about her longevity, a frequently-heard question these days, Mrs. Williams speaks of her faith in God but also admits that heredity "may have something to do with it."

One of her aunts, she says, lived to be 115 years old.

"I am going to live to be 200."



# ACTION NEWS

PEACE CORPS • VISTA • UNIVERSITY YEAR FOR ACTION  
FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM • RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM  
SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES • ACTIVE CORPS OF EXECUTIVES

Office of Public Affairs, 806 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20525

## FACT SHEET

### FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

The program: The Foster Grandparent Program offers older men and women the opportunity to participate in, and actively contribute to, community efforts to help institutionalized children who are deprived of parents and family. The program, begun in 1965 under the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, became part of ACTION in July, 1971.

The volunteers: Some 9,122 persons are serving as Foster Grandparents in 132 projects in 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Eligibility: Volunteers must be at least 60 years old and in good health. Annual income must be below \$2,000 for single persons and \$2,600 for couples.

Training: Foster grandparents receive 40 hours of orientation-training. They are supervised by the child-care teams of their assigned agencies and are required to attend regular in-service training sessions.

Service: As a key member of the child-care team of the institution where assigned, the Foster Grandparent is responsible for supplying individual attention to two children. The "grandparent" devotes two hours each day to each child. During a five-day week, tasks may vary from feeding and dressing the small child, playing games and reading stories, to helping with speech and physical therapy. The Foster Grandparent is active in residential facilities and hospitals for retarded, disturbed and handicapped children and in correctional institutions and homes for neglected, dependent children.

Benefits: Volunteers receive needed financial assistance, transportation allowance, hot meals while in service, accident insurance, and annual physical examinations. Uniforms are provided when necessary and educational programs are made available to volunteers.

For more information: Inquiries and applications may be sent to the Foster Grandparent Program, ACTION, Washington, D. C. 20525.

#

(Information current as April 1, 1973)





She has been with the Foster Grandparent program since November, 1972.

Her interests are, and always have been, people, books, and classical music.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

Irma Huffman - Jan 1  
Isabella McLin - Jan 4  
Addie Hawkins - Jan 5  
Marguerite Bowen - Jan 7  
Margaret McDonald - Jan 9  
Pearl Collins - Jan 20  
Catherine Bowman - Jan 22  
Marie Rivas - Jan 26  
Paula Rivera - Jan 26  
Surretha Granberry - Jan 27

Leon Williams - Feb 5  
Allie Ree Mack - Feb 9  
Gussie Thomas - Feb 11  
Dorothey Brown - Feb 19  
Robert Summerrise - Feb 28

Maude Mayes - Mar 3  
Essie V. Janis - Mar 4  
Azalee Harris - Mar 5  
Eula M. Battles - Mar 6  
Mary Gardette - Mar 14  
Linda Smith - Mar 16  
Clarence Jones - Mar 19  
Teresa Bradford - Mar 20  
Helen Henry - Mar 22  
Floyd Buckner - Mar 23

**GET WELL WISHES TO:**

Eula Mae Battles  
Edmonia L. Lockett

Addie M. Hawkins  
Ethel Money

**FAVORITE POEMS AND VERSES.....**

If a task is once begun, never leave it until it is finished. Be the labor great or small, do it well or don't do it at all.

Do unto others as you want them to do unto you.

**OREE ARMSTER  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Every sweet word is a star in its sky; every good deed is a pearl.

Heaven is where we lay down the cross of fear and pick up the crown of security.

**ANNIE M. DAVIE  
MORNINGSIDE HOSPITAL**

I live for those who love me, whose hearts are kind and true. For the Heaven that smiles above me and awaiteth my spirit to. For all human ties that bind me. For the task my God assigned me. For the bright hopes yet to find me and good that I can do.

**GUSSIE THOMAS  
SPASTIC CHILDREN'S FDN.**

**THANK YOU for newsletter name suggestions:**

Oree Armster - Martin Luther King  
Beatrice Young - Spastic Children's Foundation  
Pauline Ponder - Spastic Children's Foundation  
Annie M. Davie - Morningside Hospital  
Celia Washington - CYD State Pre-school Headstart  
Suzanne Risher - Inter-Community Exceptional Children's Foundation

**FGP STAFF NEWS**

**MEET DEE.....**

"Hi!—I'm Dee Colombatto—and who are you? And are these your foster grandchildren? They seem *happy*—and you must help them be so! How were we so lucky to find you?

My Foster Grandparent interviews at Spastic Children's Foundation so far have been very informative to me, THANK YOU all for being so cooperative. To those who I haven't caught yet, I'm trying to find out anything and everything that might be of benefit to all of the Foster Grandparents in the program. (Thanks to Action for hiring me). I want to be full of right answers about your Social Security, SSI, Medicare, Medical, Food Stamps, and so on. If you are confused over something, ask me, and I'll be off to search for the answer.

I also wish to get to know each one of you personally so that my psychology, astrology and other good vibrations can tune into yours. Your thoughts and needs are *important* to me.

I really like people! and Foster Grandparents are *special*.

1975 marks the Tenth Anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program.

## HEALTH FACTS.....

Q. I'm a diabetic and only about 10 pounds overweight, yet my doctor insists that I must lose the extra pounds. Does even slight overweight make a difference in being able to control diabetes?

A. Yes it does. Your diabetes will become much easier to control if you reduce your weight to normal. Excess weight—even a few pounds—means that you have excess tissue. More tissue means that more insulin is necessary for sugar metabolism. By shedding excess pounds, therefore, you reduce your body's need for insulin. This holds true for persons who must take insulin injections; after slimming down, they need a smaller dosage. In fact, some overweight diabetics who require a certain small amount of external insulin by injection find that the injections become unnecessary when they reduce their weight to normal.

Q. What exactly are cataracts, and how successful is surgery in restoring sharper vision?

A. A cataract is a clouding of the lens, which lies behind the pupil. It has been postulated that if he lives long enough, almost everyone will show some evidence of cataracts. Their cause is not known precisely. Some authorities believe that nourishment for the lens is diminished by the processes of aging, bringing about a reduction of clarity and transparency. This cloudiness can progress gradually through the years to the point of partial or complete blindness. It can, however, be prevented and vision can be improved markedly by surgical removal of the opaque lens—an operation that has been perfected to the degree that it is successful in 94 to 98 percent of the cases. Some older people might have an unwarranted fear of the surgery, assuming themselves to be too weak or too old. They should be encouraged to seek the help of an ophthalmologist.

Reprinted from Modern Maturity.

## JUST ASK ME

by Dee

1. Save \$! Pacific Telephone offers Lifeline to anyone who just makes 30 local phone calls a month for only \$2.50 total. You can, of course, make more local calls and long distance calls but then the price goes up.

2. When you are ill and can't get to the grocery store, did you know about Meals on Wheels? Ask me!

3. Senior Citizens on SSI are not eligible for Food Stamps. More on this later.

4. Cataract operations are covered by Medicare. Ask me!

I can be reached by calling the FGP office at 971-7546.

Letter to all California Congressmen, State Senators and local Councilmen:

I was appalled and outraged to learn that President Ford intends to ask Congress to approve further spending cuts in government aid for older Americans. According to Stanley B. Thomas Jr. of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the aged will be asked to absorb cuts in aid for transportation, meals and other services already approved by Congress. In addition to which the President has asked that the 8.7% cost of living increase in Social Security benefits due in July be frozen at 5%.

It would appear that remaining in the work force 40 years and longer and contributing towards the upkeep of the nation through the various public systems reaps no benefits upon retirement. In fact, a great many seniors are penalized, as retirement means that they will be reduced to eating dog food, be unable to afford decent housing, medical treatment or an adequate means of transportation. This deplorable state of affairs is due to an inadequate fixed income not kept consistent with the rising cost of living and a very limited number of services and programs available to seniors. A further cut in funding for older Americans is unthinkable.

On behalf of the 105 older Americans participating in the Foster Grandparent Program, I strongly urge every public official to fight cuts in government aid for senior citizens and to make programs and services for this group a priority.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Alison K. Gilbert  
Director,  
Foster Grandparent Program



An original poem written by IRMA HUFFMAN  
about her foster grandchild at INTER-COMMUNITY  
EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

DONALD, DEAR DONALD

It was the autumn of my life when he stole  
into my heart. Loneliness was my constant  
companion; self pity my indulgence.  
Sadness came with the dawn; increased  
with the sunset. Tears were ever near;  
happiness a feeling forgotten.

Donald, dear Donald  
Quickly and loudly he chased away all  
my miseries. He took me by the hand  
and led me into a beautiful new life.  
Away with self pity!  
Begone the loneliness!  
Tears were exchanged for laughters;  
Sadness for "Happy Faces." I welcome  
the dawn, a new day for new happiness.  
Quietly I watch the sunset knowing  
tomorrow will bring pleasures and love.

Donald, dear Donald  
Who is this child?  
This child who flaunts a myriad of  
personalities? What mysteries lie  
buried behind the vague but beautiful  
eyes? Drooping eyes with a mystic  
aura. What mysteries lie buried in the  
beauty of his soul? The beauties  
others can't see because of the label "retarded."

Donald, dear Donald  
Yes, he has his moments of anger.  
His moments of being irrational; and at  
times, very hyper-active. When I walk  
into a room and he is there his face  
brightens; a glow lightens his eyes.  
And that glow touches my face and heart;  
and we are joyful.

Donald, dear Donald  
Love has shown me all the beauty in your  
eyes and in your soul. And I know the  
secret. God gave you an extra touch  
to make up for the damaged brain. To  
me he has given the joy of sharing this  
secret. And I am grateful.  
Thank you, God.

Thank you for -

Donald, dear Donald

1974

## CONTACT:

Mrs. Alison Gilbert  
(213) 971-7546

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COMPTON MAYOR HIGHLIGHTS

## PEPPERDINE FOSTER GRANDPARENT FETE

Compton Mayor, Doris Davis, will present a resolution honoring participants in the Foster Grandparent Recognition Ceremonies to be hosted by Pepperdine University's Los Angeles campus Wednesday, May 22 at 11 a.m.

The second annual recognition day program honors senior citizens who have worked with disadvantaged children during the past year.

Mayor Davis will also be the keynote speaker at the event which will simultaneously serve as the 105th birthday celebration of Mrs. Pearl Williams, the nation's oldest foster grandparent.

Mrs. Williams, who was born in 1869, is an active participant in the Foster Grandparent program and was one of the consultants to actress Cicely Tyson in her widely acclaimed T.V. performance in the "Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman".

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# NEWS RELEASE

NEWS BUREAU

8035 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90044

CONTACT:

TELEPHONE:

## Foster Grandparent Fete - 2

The Foster Grandparent program is a federally funded ACTION project administered at Pepperdine University since July, 1972. The program places low-income senior citizens in child care institutions.

More than 100 grandparents over the age of 60 work four hours per day with two children five days a week in the Pepperdine sponsored program.

Participating local institutions include the Foundation for the Junior Blind, Martin Luther King Hospital and the Spastic Children's Foundation of Los Angeles.

The event will be held in Pepperdine's Friendship Hall, 8035 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles.