



Michigan Association of
**Foster Grandparent &
Senior Companion**
Programs

What is the Foster Grandparent Program?

Foster Grandparent volunteers serve as role models, mentors, and friends to children in need. They serve at thousands of local organizations throughout the State of Michigan, including faith-based groups, Head Start Centers, schools, and other youth facilities. Foster Grandparents provide guidance to children at a critical time in their lives.



What is the Senior Companion Program?

Senior Companion volunteers serve as advocates, supporters and friends to older adults who are frail and isolated, as well as young adults with developmental disabilities. Placements include private homes, mental health centers, convalescent facilities, and other community sites. Senior Companions are the connection to the community for their clients.

To qualify, volunteers must be 55 or better and income eligible (200% poverty level or less). Eligible volunteers earn a tax-free hourly stipend, transportation reimbursement or provisions, and other benefits. Prior to placement, volunteers must complete 20 hours of pre-service orientation/training, a physical and various criminal history checks. Volunteers must serve a minimum of 15 hours per week and can serve up to 40 hours per week. Continuous training is provided on a monthly basis.

24% of older adults
volunteered last
year, more than any
other group



What is the Michigan Association of Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion Programs?

The Michigan Association of Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs (MAFG/SCP) officially began in September 1978 through the efforts of program staff throughout the state. The MAFG/SCP provides statewide educational and networking opportunities to assist members in achieving common program goals of support, enrichment, and advocacy, for limited-income senior volunteers of the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs on local, state, and national levels.

www.MAFGSCP.org



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Foster Grandparents

➡ In Michigan, 1,028 Foster Grandparents served for 1,073,232 hours, impacting 5,493 children with special or unique needs.



Senior Companions

➡ In Michigan, 495 Senior Companions served for 495,447 hours, impacting 2,297 seniors in need of additional support.

Benefits of Volunteering in Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Programs:

"Grandma has really brought one of our newer students out of her shell by interacting with her daily. She helps her with her school work continually. I have seen many areas of growth for this student-socially, emotionally, and academically that would not have happened if it wasn't for Grandma's one on one work with her."

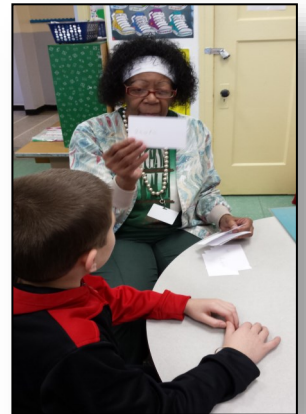
-Teacher working with Foster Grandparent

- A renewed sense of purpose
- Networking and socialization with other older adults
- Tax-free \$2.65 hourly stipend
- Travel provisions/reimbursements
- Annual health appraisals
- Excess accident insurance coverage
- Ongoing training and professional development



After just one year...

- Nearly **half** of volunteers reported improved health and wellbeing, and more than one third initially reporting they were in good health, reported improved health at the end of the one-year period.
- Almost **two-thirds** of volunteers reported a decrease in feelings of isolation, and **67%** of those who first reported they "often" lack companionship, reported improved social connections.
- **70%** of volunteers who initially reported five or more symptoms of depression reported fewer symptoms at the end of the first year, while **63%** of volunteers initially reporting three or four symptoms of depression also report fewer symptoms.



"My Senior Companion is my highway to the outside world!"

-Senior Companion Client

