Friends Foster Grandparents
Make a Difference

The Friends Foster Grandparent Program places seniors in local schools helping children read, learn, and be mentored by caring adults 55 and up.

Our Foster Grandparent volunteers are in over 80 classrooms across 8 NH counties interacting with at-risk children daily. A majority of the students Foster Grandparents provide support to are academically at-risk, have learning disabilities, or may have emotional needs. These amazing volunteers are making a positive difference in these children's lives.

If you would like to become a Foster Grandparent or receive information about the Program, please call us at 1-800-536-1193 or email us and we would be happy to speak with you.

Open Your Heart!

The month of February reminds us all to open our hearts to others, show compassion and kindness to all we meet, and being loving above all else. Help the Friends Program do this by donating today so that we can continue to open our hearts to those in need in our community.

Thank you for your continued support!

Shop at Rite Aid to Support Youth Mentoring

Enroll in KidCents and your in-store & online purchases at Rite Aid will be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. Your change can go to our Youth Mentoring Program and make a meaningful difference in the lives of local children.
Thank you to Shyla Gregory, UNH Intern with the Friends Youth Mentoring Program, who took the initiative to make this happen.

**Matching Gifts**

Many employers will increase the impact of your generous gift by matching all or a portion of your charitable contribution to the Friends Program. In some cases, companies may match retirees’ donations, too. If you or your spouse work for a company with a “Matching Gift” program, please let us know at the time of your donation. Check here to see if your employer is part of this program.

**Donate Your Concord Food Co-op Green Stamps!**

The Friends Emergency Housing Program has been selected as a 2017 Co-op Community Partner. Thank You Concord Food Co-op!

You can help us by donating your filled Green Stamp books to the Friends Program. The Co-op will donate $5 for each filled Green Stamp book turned in before April 2, 2017. Check here for more information.

**Help Us Spread the Word About Friends**

Do you belong to a neighborhood group, service organization, or workplace giving collaborative? If so, we would love to be a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting to let others know what the Friends Program does. Contact us if interested.

**Share-A-Haircut for those in Need**

Jerry Madden, the Executive Director of the Friends Program, announced his retirement from the organization in April 2017. Madden has served as the Executive Director of the Friends Program since March 2007. Prior to that he worked for the Concord Police Department and spent his last 6 years on the force as the Chief of Police.

"When I joined Friends, I thought I understood the role the organization played in the community. After spending the last ten years witnessing firsthand the incredible power of community service, I now realize how much I had..."
Hair Cuttery, located at 271 Loudon Road in Concord, will host "Share-A-Haircut for the Homeless" on February 6th & 7th. Every time anyone receives a haircut, a free haircut certificate will be donated to those in need in the area.

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Youth Mentoring Orientations

Make a difference in the life of a Merrimack County young person & be a mentor. The first step is attending an orientation that will introduce you our program and outline what's involved.

Upcoming orientations:
- Wednesday, February 15th 4:30-7:00pm
- Thursday, March 2nd 5:00-7:30pm
- Saturday, March 25th 10:00am-12:30pm
- Thursday, April 6th 4:40-7:00pm

Step up and step in to help a needy child. Call 228-0108 for more info.

Free Senior Exercise Classes

Don't let the winter weather stop your exercise plans. Friends Bone Builders is a low-impact workout that yields high-impact results. These osteoporosis and senior strength programs are held at over 20 locations. Click here for class locations.

We Want YOU!

Do you support the Friends Program and want to get more involved? We are always looking for volunteers to serve on the Development Committee and the RSVP Advisory Committee. If you are interested in learning more about these volunteer opportunities, contact us.

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underestimated the power that volunteers have and how their gifts of time and compassion have for those less fortunate," reflected Madden on the lessons he learned during his tenure.

We will all miss Jerry and thank him for all he has done for the Friends Program. Read more here.

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Thank You......

Thank you to the following businesses, foundations and non-profit organizations who financially contributed to the Friends Program in January:

- Associated Grocers of NH & AG Supermarkets
- Daughter of Isabella Circle St. Louis #1349
- Dr. Horace, Gene & Robert Blood Family Grant
- JSI/Community Health Institute

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Youth Mentoring Awards

During National Mentoring Month, the Youth Mentoring Program celebrated our volunteer mentors for their efforts in building healthy 1:1 relationships with mentees. Our mentors provide access, advice and advocacy to our community’s youth who are in need of extra supports.
Sanford Temperature Control Inc.
Charity Program

Sanford's Charity Referral Program will make a 5% donation to our Senior Programs - Foster Grandparent Program and the RSVP Program - whenever a referral completes a service or installation with Sanford Temperature Control during the month of February. Check out the promotional flyer for more information.

Millie LaFontaine, pictured above with Youth Mentor Staff Maureen Desmond, has volunteered with the Friends Youth Mentoring Program since 2009, assuming the role of volunteer mentor for three youngsters. She was presented with the Mentoring Master Award, which recognizes one outstanding mentor who has successfully served more than 5 years with the program as a mentor for more than one child.

We are grateful to all who have stepped up to mentor a child! Read about the other award recipients here.

Concord Cold Weather Shelter

The Friends Program is managing the 2017 Concord Cold Weather Shelter, which is located at Christ the King Parish: Saint Peter's Activity Center in Concord. The shelter is open until April 1st and there are still volunteer shifts available. Go online to sign up or call Terry Blake at 848-6025 if you are interested in volunteering.
Thank you to the following highlighted 2017 Business Sponsors!

Canon
Canon Solutions America

Merrimack
County Savings Bank

Keystone
Management Co, Inc.

Concord Food
Co-op
Concord, New London

Bank of New Hampshire
New Hampshire’s local bank

Preti Flaherty

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Friends Program Website

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