A Very Hopeful Foster Grandparent Story
Once upon a time, many elementary schools in Richland County had wonderful, nurturing Foster Grandparent volunteers to help make life easier for many fantastic, dedicated teachers.
The Foster Grandparents gladly came to school each day in their bright red smocks.

Everybody in the school knew who they were, not only by their clothing, but by the way they walked proudly down the hallways knowing that each day they were making a difference in the lives of children.
Brockman Montessori Elementary School @BrockmanPrin • Aug 27
Welcome back to our foster grandparents! Lower elementary children look forward to the opportunity to read with you @SeniorRes_SC

Arden Elementary Beagles @ArdenBeagles
Our foster grandparents ROCK! We love having them at Arden! @SeniorRes_SC

@RichlandOne @RichlandOneSupe @JLDevine1

12:22 PM • Feb 16, 2020 • Twitter Web App
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The Foster Grandparents loved the children, encouraging them to improve their reading skills, try new things, and be respectful. They were patient, kind, and helpful to the students and teachers alike.
They wanted to please their Foster Grandparents because the Foster Grandparents made them feel special.

Students cooperated and eagerly completed their school work because they loved getting attention from their classroom Grandma (and one Grandpa!).
The teachers were happy to have help in their classrooms because students were excited about learning with the Foster Grandparents. The volunteers were firm, but fair, patient and supportive.
Then one terrible day, COVID-19 came to town and shut down all the schools. There were no more laughing children in the classroom, anxiously waiting on hugs and love from their classroom grandparents. Teachers were gone, classrooms were eerie and silent.

Time stood still.
The Foster Grandparents missed their schools. The schools missed their Foster Grandparents.

The grandmas and grandpa were alone at home, sad and isolated, missing their teachers and students.
Then one spectacular, marvelous, amazing day brand new iPads arrived!
Fifteen excited Foster Grandparents trained on how to use their new devices.
Fifteen hopeful Foster Grandparents practiced reading books online, yearning to be part of a classroom again.
Fifteen confident Foster Grandparents learned how to visit with each other remotely, longing for the day they could see and talk to students. They would once again be able to encourage the students and support the teachers.
Does this story have a happy ending?

We do not know yet.
Please invite a Foster Grandparent to serve your school remotely!

You will be so glad you did.
Foster Grandparent Program of the Midlands

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