

ORAL TESTIMONY OF LUCILLE STOUT  
GIVEN BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2008 APPROPRIATIONS FOR  
THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM  
A Program of the Corporation for National and Community Service

March 29, 2007  
2:00 PM

Hi, my name is Lucille Stout (Foster Grandparent with the Foster Grandparent Program of Central Florida). I have been a Foster Grandparent for four (4) years. I have not been involved in anything as worthwhile, fulfilling, or rewarding as this program.

I was a young stay-at-home mother of 4 children and, yes, it had its rewards but somehow the appreciation for all the hard work as a mother was not there.

I have also had other short-term jobs, but again none so rewarding as being a Foster Grandparent. After being diagnosed with colon cancer 17 years ago and now cured, I felt a need to give back by being productive in some way to my community. I took care of the elderly for about 7 years, working with Grannie Nannies. I loved helping and doing what I could to make their lives happier, but I was very sad when they passed away. That is when I felt that God led me to the Foster Grandparent Program. It had all the right ingredients to make a person happy. The training and support I received from the program staff was very helpful. I was assigned to an elementary school close to my home. It is here (Dream Lake Elementary School) that I get to help over 160 children in 8 different classrooms and mentor 6 specific children who are in need of added help in reading and math. The smiles and hugs I get from these children are all the thanks I need. Of course knowing how much the teachers appreciate my help is a blessing as well.

I would hope and pray that if anything the Foster Grandparents would be on the increase to accommodate all the new children moving into Orlando. I have heard about 1200 people are moving into this area every week.

It would be a very sad day for me and for my “kids” if I was one of the 12% who got cut from this wonderful program. Thank you!

P.S. One of the nicest compliments I ever received from a school administrator was “we could never pay you enough for all you do for our children.”