Spotlight Encore Cleveland: School Foster Grandparent Program in Cleveland

Launched in 2013 by the Cleveland Foundation, Encore Cleveland helps to connect and fund a network of organizations to provide experienced Greater Clevelanders an array of meaningful opportunities in the community upon retirement or near the end of their primary careers. In our “Spotlight Encore Cleveland” guest blog series, we go behind-the-scenes to explore programs offered through the Encore Cleveland network. In this blog, learn about becoming an in-school foster grandparent with East End Neighborhood House.

The Foster Grandparent Program began as a national demonstration effort in August 1965. This effort demonstrates how low-income persons aged 55 or over, have the maturity and experience needed to establish a personal relationship with children having either exceptional or special needs. That demonstration effort funded 21 projects, which employed 800 Foster Grandparents to provide care and attention to children up to five years of age in institutional and community settings. By 1968 a total of 68 projects had been developed and funded in 40 States and Puerto Rico. There are currently nine Foster Grandparent Programs in the State of Ohio, three of which are in the Northern Ohio region: Cleveland, Akron and Toledo.

A stipend is provided (available) for applicants who meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be 55 years of age or older
- Must be physically capable to serve without detriment to self or others
- Must meet income requirements
- Complete and pass background check
- Have never been accused, arrested charged or convicted of child abuse or molestation
- Not be a convicted felon
- Will to adhere to all FGP policies and procedures
- Available to volunteer 15-20 hours per week
- No longer employed in the workforce
- Reside in the state of Ohio
- Have reliable transportation
- Have a current driver license and proof of insurance if driving
- Must not be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances while volunteering
- Must genuinely love and respect children

The East End Neighborhood House will supply tutoring foster grandparents in more than 20 schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for the 2019-2020 school year.

Discover more by contacting:
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