Hello Adopt A Grandparent Program Coordinator:

Thank you for your interest in pursuing the Adopt A Grandparent program. We are pleased to begin the process of intergenerational relationships between local students (or children participating in other groups) and the residents at your facility. We anticipate intergenerational relationships to:

* Provide an opportunity for both the student and resident to learn new skills
* Give the child and older adult a sense of purpose
* Help alleviate fears children may have of the elderly
* Help children to understand and later accept their own aging
* Invigorate and energize older adults
* Help reduce the likelihood of depression in the elderly
* Reduce the isolation of older adults
* Fill a void for children who do not have grandparents available to them
* Help keep family stories and history alive.

Please read through the documents included in the tool kit. Please remember the following points when you are coordinating your program with local students.

* Coordinate a central location for all activities.
* It often works well for your facility’s Dining Services to provide the snack to accommodate for any food preferences or special dining needs. Students could help residents prepare a snack as a fun activity. Provide snacks as they students prepare to leave.
* Ask residents not to give students any gifts, food, candy, or any other items.
* Adjust groupings to avoid personality conflicts when needed. It often works well to group 2-3 students per resident.
* Try to plan engaging activities that will last 20-30 minutes.
* It works best to identify one contact with each organization. For example, if there are three sections of a particular grade level, make one teacher the primary contact to identify any changes or cancellations that need to be made because of illness, scheduling conflicts, or the like.
* Have fun!

Thank you for your participation. Please remember to complete the evaluation following the completion of the program.