

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1993

Mr. Don Zitzelberger
Founder
Grandpa/Ma Corps
P. O. Box 177
Hereford, AZ 85615-0177

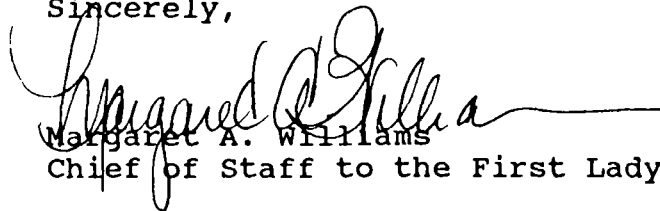
Dear Mr. Zitzelberger:

Your letter to Marian Wright Edelman has been forwarded to this office.

We appreciated learning about the wonderful work being done by the Grandpa/Ma Corps. We certainly understand that keeping costs to your volunteers at a minimum is vital to your ability to recruit good volunteers, particularly those on fixed incomes. However, as Congressman Kolbe's response from the FBI points out, the fees for noncriminal justice fingerprint submissions were established by Congressional mandate. Any changes or waivers must come from the same source.

I know Mrs. Clinton would want me to send you her best wishes and her thanks for the imagination and energy that you have given so freely to the children you are serving.

Sincerely,


Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

DRAFT FOR Maggie's signature

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mag -
send to Legal?

Send to Ad.



Children's Defense Fund

August 4, 1993

Dear Mr. Zitzelberger:

Thanks for your letter and material on Grandpa/Ma Corps. I will be glad to forward your letter to the appropriate people in the First Lady's office and hope it helps.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Wright Edelman

Mr. Don Zitzelberger
Founder
Grandpa/Ma Corps
P.O. Box 177
Hereford, AZ 85615-0177

25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone 202 628 8787
Fax 202 662 3510



Grandmother Jordan is lots of good things like a pepperoni pizza. She spices up my day with her smiles and charms.

GRANDPA/MA CORPSTM
P.O. BOX 177
HEREFORD, AZ
85615-0177
(602) 378-3336



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Marian Wright Edelman, President
Children's Defense Fund,
122 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Edelman:

Your child advocacy endeavors are well known and laudable. We personally thank you. We hope you can counsel us.

Because you had enlisted the aid of Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton several years ago, we thought perhaps a letter to the White House would elicit her advocacy and solution of our problem. Regrettably the volume of mail has precluded her attention to our request. We were asking for her intervention in the matter of waiving the FBI fee for processing the fingerprint cards forwarded to them by the Arizona Department of Safety. Our membership is unanimous in wanting all participants screened, to protect our organization.

Actually, I am ahead of the story. Let me introduce the players.

I am not a retired teacher or social worker. I am retired; a grandfather, who volunteers at a crisis shelter to affirm the dysfunctional mother and her unfortunate children. I was once there, at their age. The affirmation and advocacy of the counselors at the local shelter engendered a program we initiated at the elementary school where these children attend. I did not know then there was a label for it.

I want to acquaint you with our "intergenerational" program initiated in the area of Sierra Vista, Ft. Huachuca Army Post, and Huachuca City in southeast Arizona. It is a working plan on the grass roots level that confirms our providing exactly what youth need. Their susceptibility to no self-esteem is greater than ever as attested to by our present social problems. To avoid being oversimplistic we recognize the role poverty and other factors play. Foremost is the dysfunctional family which is legion.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are comprised of volunteers from different walks of life who believe we can make a difference in children's lives by being accessible to them. By positive dialogue and demeanor with an affirming mental attitude, rather than judgmental, the process of building the individual child's self esteem is accomplished.

Network courtesy of Foster Grandparent Program



July 23, 1993
Am... my int... ent
RECEIVED AUG 02 1993

Teachers can not be expected to teach socialization skills exclusively. Unfortunately, their academic obligations preclude adequate time for this endeavor.

This is where an effective intergenerational program can assist the faculty. Teachers who utilize us in their classrooms, notwithstanding a minimum of one hour a week, appreciate our contribution of assisting them in developing these socialization skills in the children. This responsibility, regrettably has fallen on their shoulders during our nation's societal development these past few years. A local child psychologist has commented that this task has been abandoned by many parents. The churches do this when attended. Television falls far short of achieving this. Our goal of assisting the teachers is expressed in the accompanying essay, "Defining the Acronym".

At the end of the school year, we conduct an essay contest in order to evaluate our achieving of goals. Invariably, the children affirm us, to some extent, about our tutoring efforts, but to a greater degree, about our mentoring. They are so appreciative of the many aspects of our mentoring. The enclosed brochure contains partial expression of their comments.

Our program is positively efficient. It is a much-needed effort on the part of any community to reach out and make a difference in children's lives. Our Mission Statement could be adopted by any community.

The Corps also envisions establishing a facility where children, with parental consent, after school and on Saturdays could avail themselves of contacting their surrogate family. We already have started utilizing younger adults as "Aunts" and "Uncles". We search for many and any means of implementing our Mission Statement as we believe that by improving a child's self image, many present day social ills are precluded.

The inclosed Huachuca Scout article mentions seventeen members. Actually our number is forty. We are in three school districts and considering a fourth. An affiliate may begin in Washington State.

We are in the process of becoming a non-profit corporation in order to obtain grants and benefactions to achieve our goals. Tax credits in the form of mileage to schools and lunch expenses while at school would appear appropriate. Also, our efforts to have the FBI waive the twenty five dollar fingerprint assessment on our fixed income senior volunteers has yet to end on a positive note. Enclosed is the FBI's reply to Arizona Congressman Jim Kolbe's inquiry to a resolution.

Admittedly, any "perks" offered, excluding payment of services rendered, would enhance the recruitment of senior volunteers. Time is an element wherein we retirees are immersed. Giving us a goal, similar to that offered the Peace Corps volunteer, but on the domestic front, would heighten our lives. To be aware that we are useful to our country, mentoring children in how to be happy citizens, would be the crowning achievement of our individual lives.

We want to serve our country by making a difference in children's lives through a beneficent intergenerational program.

We would enjoy hearing from you and read your comments about our efforts on the grass roots, practical level. Your counsel and advocacy would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


Don Zitzelberger
Founder

Incl.: Essay, "Defining the Acronym"
Brochure, "Most People..."
Huachuca Scout article, Nov '92
Ft. Huachuca Accommodating Schools Letter;
March 5, 1993
FBI letter to Congressman Kolbe;
June 30, 1993

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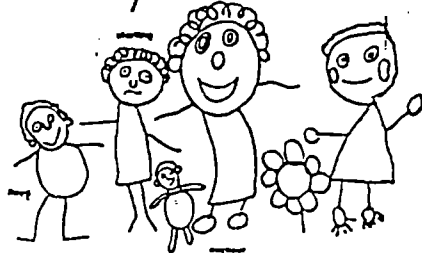
Grandmother Jordan is full of good things like a pepperoni pizza. She picks up my day with her smiles and charms.

"They take time to come to our class and I hope every school in America could have the grandpas like ours."

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We are comprised of volunteers from different walks of life who believe we can make a difference in children's lives by being accessible to them. By positive dialogue and demeanor with an affirming mental attitude, rather than judgmental, the process of building the individual child's self esteem is accomplished.

Thank you for helping us.



Artwork courtesy of
Foster Grandparent Program

For information, write or call:
GRANDPA/MA CORPS
P.O. BOX 177; HEREFORD, AZ 85615
(602) 378-3336

This brochure funded by the
SIERRA VISTA KIWANIS
(ARIZONA)
PRINTED AT MAILBOXES, ETC.

MOST
PEOPLE
LOVE
PIZZA



WHY DOES
THIS SIGN
MEAN MORE
TO CHILDREN?

BECAUSE

RE
?



THEY KNOW IT IS THE SYMBOL
OF THE GRANDPA/MA CORPS.

READ WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT
IT, IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

"They exceed beyond the
realms of love, and
I benefit from them."

"They teach us not to
make mistakes that
they made."

"They are someone to
personally care for
you, because a child
needs love & attention
in order to grow."

"They give compliments
which help our self-
esteem."

"They talk about their
past & what kind of
challenges they had."

"They make me feel good
about what I'm doing."

"They help teachers and
students and you can
talk to them and they
will listen."

"They are funny and packed
with wisdom and make
me laugh a lot."

"They make us feel
warm inside."

"They involve them-
selves in our lives."

"They want us not only
to get love but to
give love."

"They tell and share
their dreams."

"My heart always leaped
when our Grandma was
around here."

"They let us know you're
never too young or too
old to learn basic
skills or to stop going
to school."

"They teach us new things."

"They help us face our
problems."

"We can depend on the
Grandparents."

"They know what is right
and teach us."

"They make us feel
comfortable."





TM
GRANDPA/MA CORPS
 P.O. Box 177
 Hereford, AZ
 85615
 (602) 378-3336



DEFINING THE ACRONYM

MARCH 1992

G in **GRANDPA/MA CORPS** is for **GENEROUS** giving of self, volunteering without payment, except for the "out of this world" benefits. R is for **RESPONSE**, an answer, a "possible" solution to our dilemma, as perceived and **NEEDED** by our young people here in Sierra Vista and elsewhere. It is **DESIRED** by them when seen as an effort by mature people who care to help them grow mentally in a positive, conducive environment. The school system has a superb role in developing the intellectual mind. What is of concern here, is maturing of the psychic mind, to arrive at emotional maturity. Adolescence nowadays is tough enough but we cannot give up supplying them the necessary qualities for happiness. We must enable them to learn to cope with everything about life, the good and the apparent bad. Teachers are overworked, unable to affirm every student on a one to one basis. Learning to live embraces more than academic or vocational achievements.

Adult living involves growth that provides security and affirmation. By affirmation, is meant the complete acceptance of others as they are, with both positive and negative qualities. It is not mere acceptance, but choosing to help others to develop their potential. Very often, families of single or two working parents lack the proper environment for normal psychic growth because of their day to day struggle to provide economic security for the family. This loving effort to provide the necessities of life, unfortunately and paradoxically, deprives the child the atmosphere for normal, unobstructed growth. Then too, some parents may never have been affirmed themselves. You cannot give what you do not possess. By being affirmed, is meant having a known and inner awareness of their own felt goodness. Needless to say, they are legion, as attested to by psychologists and psychiatrists. Our Lord has given this insight of personal self worth through His direct intervention. The recipients are convinced of the love of God for them. Most times, however, He relies on a mentor to nurture this.

P/MATRON of **AFFIRMATION** is an affirmed person who recognizes the life long process of affirmation from others in his or her life. They can affirm because they are affirmed. They have received the gift of themselves from others. Affirmation reflects the goodness of a person back to that individual. It convinces him or her that "you are good because you are you; because you have great worth in being your unique self. Good, not primarily because you have done anything, or accomplished a great deal, or proven you are successful; no, just because you are you. You are 'the apple of God's eye'!" Thus one is happy, and able to show others how to be happy.

"People are more important than things. If society is going to emphasize material benefits and not give witness to justice, generosity, and selflessness, then it surely is on a road to self-destruction." (Excerpt from "Happy Are You Who Affirm" by Thomas A. Kane, Ph.D.)



"GOD SAW ALL HE MADE, AND INDEED IT WAS VERY GOOD" GEN.1:31

With time, effort, dedicated people, and determination, Sierra Vista can demonstrate from the vantage point of our beautiful high mountains that we have a vision, truly a dream, a new vista of better things to come for our beloved children.

Community of caring people from all walks of life. Their inspiration and motivation originating from their personal philosophies. They may be religious, altruistic, humanitarian, or philanthropic. They are people of good heart who aspire to make a difference in the lives of the youth. In their own young lives of some "few" years ago, they have come to realize they were affirmed by family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, and employers. During their formative, youthful years, friends were of great value in the emotional maturing process. True friends accepted, approved, helped, and supported them. Therefore, they wish to make themselves available to Sierra Vista youth to establish amicable relationships. By the charity in their hearts they give life and meaning to the expression learned not too long ago, "There are no strangers---only friends we have not met"! Thus, joined together in a common cause, "making the difference" in a regrettable and unfortunate situation, they form an alliance, an ORGANIZATION of RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE SERVING (CORPS).

They pay no dues, but give of their time and heart, the latter always receiving more than it gives. How remarkable are the economics of giving in the matters of the heart---the more you give, the more you receive!!! It always was, and always will be true. One is never short-changed in generosity. Consequently, this unique community of **FOSTER GRANDPARENTS** take the literal definition of the word, "foster" as meaning: to promote the growth or development, to encourage, to care for, or cherish, and to strengthen--- in a word, to affirm.

Everyone has something to give in the affirmation process. By "something" is not meant doing things for, but of "being", of having "presence" to the unaffirmed. An example of what is meant is in the case of latchkey children and others who are very often entertained, titillated, and given examples of immorality in TV sitcoms, soap operas, and talk shows. Ann Landers, in her Christmas essay in Sierra Vista Herald, Dec. 24, 1991, had strong words about the degradation of television programming. Viewers of such detrimental shows, if they be unaffirmed, have difficulty being affirmed, to attain emotional maturity. Self-affirmation is full of pitfalls, shortcomings, and tends to make one selfish. This makes it difficult to keep promises and commitments, much less, meaningful relationships. Only on a one to one relationship can one be affirmed. **GRANDPA/GRANDMA CORPS** would attempt early to preclude and interdict our Sierra Vista children from pseudo affirmation from their peers, maximizing the odds for substance abuse, truancy, and joining of gangs. Obviously, fostering a better self image in a young mind and promoting personal happiness would reap the rewards of reduced rates of teenage suicide; would eliminate this deplorable situation.

The retired, senior citizen with a wealth of experience in her or his rewarding life and endeavors has much to share, to give. The youth of today are receptive and support those who indicate they care. This is not to say that some will not respond. Those who are responsive, will be numerous, and the concept will be justified. Many of us together, can make a difference. Apathy must not prevail. We cannot lose heart over what we observe happening to our youth, the future adult citizens and leaders of our country. We have to form an alliance with them as we do with each other in their behalf.

The Federal Government is pouring money down the drain to stop substance abuse. The problem is not interdicting drug trafficking but instilling a self worth image into our youth, motivating them to personal achievement, a love for life, a desire to establish meaningful relationships with friends of character above reproach. In a word, to give them the necessary means and mental skills to make them happy citizens.

"The purpose of discussing at length our attitudes toward children is to point to the need to affirm rather than deny. Persons or even nations who are not open to new life will ultimately find themselves wondering why they have lives in which nobody says, 'I love you.'"

By Don Zitzelberger

Thomas A. Kane, Ph.D.
"Happy Are You Who Affirm"

Youth advocacy group to help in post schools

By Sue Gilgenbach

Staff Writer HUACHUCA SCOUT
NOV/92

An organization that seeks to help youth learn self-esteem through positive interaction with older people is about to begin work with children in the post's elementary schools.

Don Zitzelberger, founder and facilitator of the Huachuca Area Grandpa/ma Corps, said officials with the Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools are interested in the program. The youth-advocacy program has been at work in Sierra Vista schools since March, Zitzelberger said.

He said Dr. Clark Stevens, accommodation schools superintendent, expressed interest in the program in a meeting held Monday in Sierra Vista.

"We are supportive. We are interested in the program," Stevens said Tuesday.

Zitzelberger said he's also talked to officials with the New Beginnings Child Development Center on post about Corps members helping there.

Grandpa/ma Corps stands for Generous Response as Needed/Desired Patron or Matron Affirmation. Its 17 members, most of whom are retired, conduct what Zitzelberger calls an "intergenerational program"—a program in which older people participate in activities with children and youth—to affirm youth, he said.

Affirming—by frequently complimenting a child's work, for example—helps a young person develop a positive self-image, Zitzelberger said.

Affirming can be accomplished during sessions in which the Grandpas/Grandmas mingle and interact with children or youth in what Zitzelberger describes as a "casual atmosphere" or "lounge atmosphere." That's done in settings such as a school cafeteria or teachers' lounge, where the Grandpas/Grandmas might cook pizza or make arts and crafts.

"The affirmation is necessary in lives of children to instill self-esteem and teach human values," he said. "This is accomplished by not being judgmental about their shortcomings, but building upon the goodness inherent to each."

"I was raised in a dysfunctional family. I understand the desire to be loved," Zitzelberger said. "We Grandpas/Grandmas give our time and love to give emotional support to young children."

The Corps first volunteered its services in March 1992 to Carmichael



Don Zitzelberger

Elementary School in Sierra Vista, Zitzelberger said. The program was so successful that by June the Corps was volunteering its services to another Sierra Vista school, Huachuca Mountain Elementary.

He said word of the Corps' success at those schools got around to Debbie Brown, a teacher at Smith Middle School. She called Zitzelberger and asked about the program; Zitzelberger, in turn, contacted Stevens.

"We are still in the initial phase, outlining the program and processing background checks," Zitzelberger said.

The Corps prefers to volunteer within the elementary schools, he said. Its members also have worked with children at Sierra Vista's domestic-crisis shelter, he added.

"Our objective is to work with a child one-on-one," Zitzelberger said. "It is not only to tutor a child in reading and math, but also to develop an inter-relationship with the child."

Volunteers who have experience or knowledge of dealing with children are sought, but such experience is not necessary. Anyone interested is encouraged to volunteer for the Corps, he said.

"If first-time volunteers are nervous, we offer a 'tag-along' apprenticeship," Zitzelberger said. "A new volunteer will accompany a seasoned Grandpa/Grandma."

Zitzelberger said the Corps requests volunteers be prepared to dedicate at least one hour per week.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Corps is invited to attend a breakfast meeting at the Rustic Rail Restaurant scheduled for 8 a.m. Jan. 11. More information is available by calling Zitzelberger at 378-3336.

FORT HUACHUCA ACCOMMODATION SCHOOLS

"Committed To Quality Education"

Tom Campbell
Cochise County Superintendent

Clark A. Stevens, Ph.D.
District Superintendent

Sally Holcombe
Director of Instruction

Gary Hicks
Business Manager

P.O. DRAWER Q
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA 85613-0017
(602)458-5082
FAX# (602)459-8771

March 5, 1993



Mr. Don Zitzelberger
Grandma/Grandpa Corps
P.O. Box 177
Hereford, Az. 85615

Dear Mr. Zitzelberger:

Thank you for all the great things you are doing for our students here at Ft. Huachuca through your group's generosity of donating the many skills and expertise that are among you folks. However, Don, we have encountered an obstacle in the area of fingerprinting of your organization.

When we first met last fall the district did agree to arrange for fingerprinting of your members; however, we can not continue to provide this service on an unlimited basis. Each person who is fingerprinted costs the district \$25.00 for processing through the Arizona Department of Public Safety. At this point, we have paid for 18 of the group members at a cost of \$450.00. These costs are greater than I had originally expected because I was under the impression from the Army that there would be no charge for processing of these fingerprints. It is true that the Army does not assess any fee for their processing but the ADPS does charge and we have no choice but to have them process the fingerprints.

With regrets, I am returning the latest group of fingerprint cards for you to handle however you see best. The Army will continue to fingerprint the individuals at no charge, but your organization will need to cover the \$25.00 ADPS processing charge, if you want them processed. If your organization wants to pay the processing fees, the district will send them for processing but can no longer cover the cost.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary W. Hicks". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gary W. Hicks
Business Manager



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535

June 30, 1993

Honorable Jim Kolbe
Member of Congress
Suite B-160
77 Calle Portal
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

Dear Congressman Kolbe:

Your letter dated May 7, 1993, to which you attached a letter from the Grandpa/Ma Corps of Arizona, has been referred to me for response.

The primary mission of the FBI in providing identification services is to assist the criminal justice community. Because of increasing technological and personnel costs, chiefly associated with service provided to noncriminal justice users, the ability of the FBI to fully accomplish this mission using appropriated funds was impaired. For this reason, the FBI requested and Congress mandated the collection of fees for noncriminal justice fingerprint submissions. Congress elected to specify no exceptions within the broad category of noncriminal justice use. Neither did Congress, expressly or impliedly, provide discretion to the FBI to waive fees for specific purposes or organizations. Creation of exceptions or waivers is solely within the legislative prerogatives of Congress; no exceptions or waivers can be made by the FBI.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

David F. Nemecek
Inspector-Deputy
Assistant Director
Criminal Justice Information
Services Division

JUL 14 1993