



# Senior Corps Timeline

Click on any of the decades or events below to navigate to that event in the timeline.

## Event Key:

Blue = Conferences or Meetings (CoMs)

Purple = Legislation (L)

Red = Senior Corps Programmatic Events (SCPEs)

Green = Evaluations (Es)

## 1950s

- 1950: President Truman initiates the First National Conference on Aging (CoMs)
- 1961: First White House Conference on Aging under President Eisenhower (CoMs)

## 1960s

- 1963: National Service Corps proposed by President Kennedy but defeated in Congress (L)
- 1964: Johnson declares War on Poverty and creates Office of Economic Opportunity (L)
- 1965: Older Americans Act creates the Administration on Aging (AoA) (L)
- 1965: Foster Grandparent Program demonstration projects begin (SCPEs)
- 1965: Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) begins (L)
- 1965: Green Thumb program (L)
- 1966: Greenleigh Associates conducts the first FGP evaluation (Es)
- 1968: "Senior Friends" demonstration project (L)
- 1968-1973: Rosalyn Saltz conducts a series of longitudinal FGP evaluations (Es)

## 1970s

- 1969: Older Americans Volunteer Program (OAVP) created authorizing FGP and RSVP (L)
- 1970s: FGP expands services beyond institutional settings (SCPEs)
- 1970: Gray and Kasteler FGP evaluation (Es)
- 1971: ACTION agency created (L)
- 1971: Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) projects begin (SCPEs)
- 1971: Second White House Conference on Aging under President Nixon (CoMs)
- 1971: National Association of FGP Directors (NAFGPD) founded (SCPEs)
- 1972: Congress dramatically increases funding for RSVP and FGP (L)
- 1973: Domestic Volunteer Service Act (DVSA) authorizes FGP, RSVP, and SCP (L)
- 1973: Rosalyn Saltz's FGP longitudinal study (Es)
- 1974: Senior Companion Program begins (SCPEs)
- 1976: Amendments to the DVSA expand FGP services (L)
- 1976: National Association of RSVP Directors (NARSVPD) founded (SCPEs)
- 1978: National Association of SCP Directors (NASCPD) founded (SCPEs)

## 1980s

- 1980: FGP celebrates 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)
- 1980: National Older American Volunteer Program Directors Association founded (SCPEs)
- 1981: Third White House Conference on Aging under President Reagan (CoMs)
- 1982: Ziegler and King's evaluation (Es)
- 1982: "To Love a Child" song and book released by Frank Sinatra and Nancy Reagan (SCPEs)
- 1983: Reagan declares National Year of Volunteerism (L)
- 1984: Domestic Volunteer Service Act (DVSA) reauthorized (L)
- 1984: Litigation Services conducts a 3-year longitudinal FGP evaluation (Es)
- 1985: Booz, Allen, and Hamilton conduct a 3-year longitudinal RSVP evaluation (Es)
- 1985: SRA Technologies completes a 5-year longitudinal SCP evaluation (Es)
- 1989: FGP expands in new areas (SCPEs)
- 1989: Saltz 7-year longitudinal FGP evaluation

## 1990s

- 1990: National and Community Service Act of 1990 signed (L)
- 1990: FGP celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)
- 1990: ACTION's SCP Long-Term Care Demonstration Project Evaluation (Es)
- 1991: SCP Alzheimer's Association In-Home Respite Care Demonstration (Es)

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)

- 1992: RTI evaluates RSVP's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Education (Es)
- 1993: Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) created (SCPEs)
- 1993: Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) passed (L)
- 1994: CNCS/ACTION nationwide evaluation of FGP (Es)
- 1994: CNCS nationwide evaluation of the Joint Initiative for the Vulnerable Elderly (Es)
- 1995: Fourth White House Conference on Aging hosted by President Clinton (CoMs)
- 1995: Congress provides \$1 million in funding for new SC demonstration projects (L)
- 1996: CNCS begins "Programming for Impact" initiative to implement GPRA (Es)
- 1997: Clinton announces the America Reads Initiative (L)
- 1997: CNCS RSVP evaluation from 1996-1997 (Es)
- 1998: Clinton launches 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (L)
- 1998: Civic Ventures Experience Corps 18-month Pilot Study (Es)
- 1998: Westat conducts FGP Head Start Evaluation (Es)
- 1998: CNCS launches the Experience Corps for Independent Living initiative with AARP (SCPEs)
- 1999: CNCS Accomplishment Reports (Es)
- 1999: SCP celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)
- 2000: Amendments added to the Older Americans Act (L)
- 2001: RSVP celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)
- 2002: Bush's State of the Union Address Calling Americans to Volunteer Service (L)
- 2002: Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) instituted (L)
- 2002: Congress prohibits the use of appropriated funds for SC demonstration projects (L)
- 2002: CNCS Senior Corps Futures Study (Es)
- 2003: ECIL becomes an AmeriCorps National Direct Service program (SCPEs)
- 2003: CNCS SCP Quality of Care evaluation (Es)
- 2004-2013: Experience Corps Baltimore Randomized Control Trial (RCT) (Es)
- 2005: Westat conducts Service Recipient Studies for FGP and SCP (Es)
- 2005: Fifth White House Conference on Aging under President George W. Bush (CoMs)
- 2006: Sandra Butler conducts a SCP Outcome Evaluation (Es)
- 2007: CNCS releases report on the health benefits of volunteering for baby boomers (Es)
- 2008: CNCS releases Senior Corps Outcome Evaluation (Es)
- 2009: Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act signed (L)
- 2009: OMB releases "Increased Emphasis on Program Evaluations" memorandum (L)
- 2010: GPRA Modernization Act passed (L)
- 2011: Experience Corps becomes part of the AARP Foundation (SCPEs)
- 2012: RSVP Disaster Services Evaluation of 2012 Colorado Wildfire Response (Es)
- 2013-2014: CNCS Cross-sectional Evaluation of FGP and SCP (Es)
- 2013-2019: Van Orden and Conwell RSVP Suicide RCT (Es)
- 2014: CNCS SCP Independent Living Study (Es)
- 2015: Sixth White House Conference on Aging under President Obama (CoMs)
- 2015: FGP celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)
- 2015: CNCS RSVP National Study (Es)
- 2016: CNCS combats the opioid epidemic (SCPEs)
- 2017: SCP Caregivers Study (Es)
- 2018: CNCS FGP/SCP Longitudinal study (from 2015-2018) (Es)
- 2019: CNCS releases new regulations for Senior Corps Programs (SCPEs)
- 2020 and Beyond: Based on evidence of positive impact, Senior Corps develops plans to serve the expanding needs of the aging U.S. population (SCPEs)

2000s

2010s

2020s

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)

**1950s**

17% 25.6 Million Adults 55+ 68.2 years



- **1950: President Truman initiates the First National Conference on Aging (CoMs)** designed to understand and address the needs of an increasingly older population. At this time 17% of the U.S. population (25.6 million) is 55 years of age or older (U.S. Census, 1950) and the average life expectancy is 68.2 years of age (National Vital Statistics, 1949-1951). The conference emphasizes the need to provide employment and meaningful activities beyond the supports offered by the 1935 Social Security program and lays the groundwork for senior service.

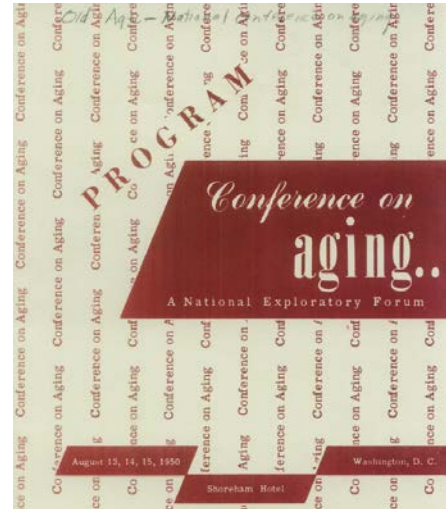


Figure 1. Program cover from the first national conference on aging organized by President Truman in 1950

**1960s**

18% 32.1 Million Adults 55+ 69.7 years



- **1961: First White House Conference on Aging (CoMs)** is initiated by President Eisenhower. The conference includes more than 3,000 people and more than 300 organizations and leads to the creation of the 1961 Social Security amendments and eventually the 1965 Older Americans Act.
- **1963: National Service Corps proposed by President Kennedy but defeated in Congress.** (L) Initial hearings introduce the idea of engaging older adults in a National Service Corps similar to the Peace Corps.
- **1964: President Johnson declares War on Poverty (L)**, appoints Sargent Shriver to develop and pass **The Economic Opportunity Act (L)** and to create the **Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) (L)**. The act includes 11 major anti-poverty programs including Job Corps, Head Start, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and VISTA. Shriver goes on to become the first director of OEO.



- **1965: Older Americans Act creates the Administration on Aging (AoA) (L)** within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (Title II), provides grants for community planning, services, and training (Title III), provides grants for research and development projects (Title IV), and provides grants for programs designed to provide specialized training to older adults (Title V).



Figure 2. President Lyndon B. Johnson offers Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus (the founder of the American Association of Retired Persons, AARP) the pen he used to sign the Older Americans Act in 1965. Image retrieved from the LBJ Library, photo by Yoichi Okamoto.

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)



- 1965: Foster Grandparent Program demonstration projects begin. (SCPEs)** A total of 21 projects are funded through the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and are administered by the Administration on Aging (AoA). The program is designed to be an anti-poverty program that provides meaningful opportunities to older adults while also fostering personal relationships between the adult and a child with exceptional or special needs.



Figure 3. An early Foster Grandparent program participant works with a hospitalized child. Image obtained from materials in the CNCS archive.

Key components include:

- Serving children (up to five years of age) in institutionalized care settings such as hospitals, orphanages, and homes for developmentally disabled or emotionally disturbed children
- Providing low-income (within 125% of the federal poverty level) older adults (60+) with a stipend matching the federal minimum wage (\$1.25/hour), a free meal, transportation reimbursement, and a free annual physical examination
- Having older adults serve for 4 hours a day, 5 days a week (20 hours total)

### New Johnson Plan: Pay Aged Poor To Care for Neglected Children

By a Staff Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch

AUSTIN, Tex., Aug. 28—A new anti-poverty program, aimed at helping low-income elderly persons by paying them to work with disadvantaged children and sick and disabled persons, was announced today by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The first stage of the program would cost about \$41,000,000, Mr. Johnson said it would open up "a new front in the war on poverty."

One project under the new program would be a system of "foster grandparents" in which elderly persons would serve as substitute parents for neglected children in institutions.

Twenty-two "foster grandparent" projects in 20 states will get under way immediately.

In other phases of the new program, elderly persons would be trained to care for mentally retarded children, for children

from broken homes and to help sick and disabled persons who were bedridden.

In announcing the program, Mr. Johnson said it was "aimed at lifting 5,300,000 elderly citizens out of poverty."

He noted that of the 13,000,000 Americans over 65 years of age, one third had incomes that were less than the \$200-a-year poverty level, and that the average income of these persons was less than \$1100 a year.

"The aged poor have maturity and experience to offer," the President said in a statement. "They are eager to help themselves and others."

"We are going to use this rich, untapped human resource to help others less fortunate. In turn, it will enable these elderly people to find the dignity and usefulness they seek."

Mr. Johnson said the initial five-year program would employ 18,200 low-income elderly persons who would be working

with 140,000 neglected children, retarded children and bedridden persons.

He said that the new anti-poverty move would consist initially of the following programs:

1) A "foster grandparent" program under which 2000 elderly persons would work with 3000 neglected infants living in institutions. Federal grants totaling \$2,670,941 to institutions in 22 cities were announced to get this program started. None of the institutions are in St. Louis.

(2) Another 2000 elderly persons would help care for 2000 older children in institutions. Grants for these projects will be announced in about a month. The total initial cost of these two "foster grandparent" programs was expected to be \$10,000,000.

(3) Ten thousand low-income elderly persons would be trained

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Figure 4. News clipping from the August 29, 1965 St. Louis Post Dispatch announcing the start of the Foster Grandparent Program



- 1965: Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) begins (L)** (supported by Title V of the Older Americans Act). SCSEP uses older (55+), unemployed, low-income adults (within 125% the federal poverty level) to perform short-term (usually less than 6 months), part-time (20 hours/week) jobs for community service organizations. The program is designed to help older workers to earn a minimum wage, develop job skills, and find longer term employment placements. Over the years SCSEP volunteers have often served alongside Senior Corps volunteers and the program continues to operate under the Department of Labor (DOL) today.



- 1965: Green Thumb program (L)** is funded by OEO and is sponsored by the National Farmers Union. The program focuses on engaging rural, low-income older adults in

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)

highway and park beautification projects. Over time, Green Thumb moved to DOL and was subsumed under SCSEP.



- **1966: Greenleigh Associates conducts the first FGP evaluation (Es)** funded by OEO and AOA. The evaluation included studies of ten of the 21 originally funded FGP projects and included site visits, observations, in-depth interviews, survey questionnaires, and a review of primary and secondary materials and documents related to the program. Overall, the report concluded that “the FGP is an effective and viable instrument to reduce poverty and poverty-linked problems among the aged... [and] also has a positive effect on the social, emotional, and physical functioning of the vast majority of institutionalized children who received this care.”



- **1968: “Senior Friends” demonstration project (L)** initiated by the Social Security Administration and the Administration on Aging. The project lays the groundwork for the Senior Companion Program.



- **1968-1973: Rosalyn Saltz conducts a series of longitudinal FGP evaluations (Es)** funded by the Merrill-Palmer Institute and designed to examine the impact of the FGP run by the Sarah Fisher Home (a children’s institution in Detroit, Michigan) on both children and older adults. A two-year longitudinal study finds significant positive impacts of FGP on children’s vocalization, intelligence, and social competence over time (comparing institutionalized children receiving FGP services to similar institutionalized children in Baltimore, MD) and finds that the program results in increased life satisfaction, health, and vigor in older adult participants (relative to a comparison group of program applicants and other program-eligible adults in the community).



- **1969: National Older Americans Volunteer Program (OAVP) is created as part of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1969 and authorizes FGP and RSVP. (L)** The program is housed under the Administration on Aging and includes formal authorization for:

- **Foster Grandparent Program** (which is expanded to serve children up to age 17)
- **Retired Senior Volunteer Program** (modeled after Serve and Enrich Retirement by Volunteer Experience [SERVE] program piloted in Staten Island, NY). Projects did not begin until 1971.

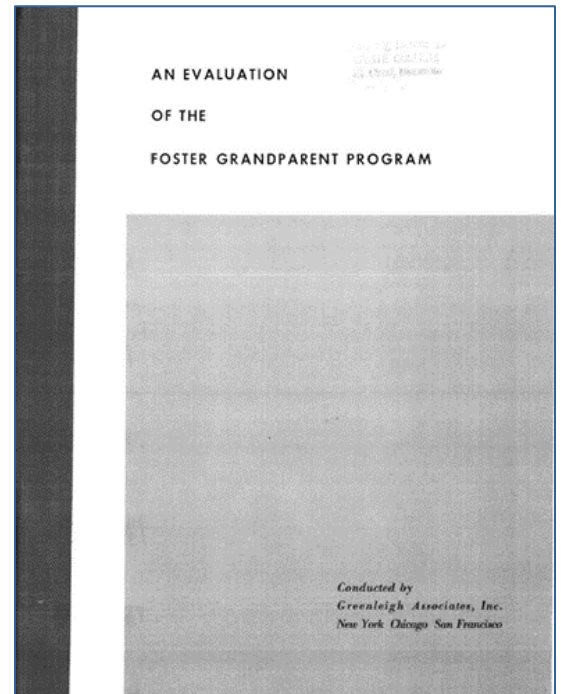


Figure 5. Cover of the first evaluation report for the Foster Grandparent Program conducted by Greenleigh Associates in 1966 (one year after the start of the program)



Figure 6. Early volunteers of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Photo from RSVP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary report.

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)

1970s

19%

38.7 Million Adults 55+  70.8 years



- **1970s: FGP expands services (SCPEs)** from institutions to local schools, day care centers, and Head Start programs.



- **1970: Gray and Kasteler FGP evaluation (Es)** showed that after a year of participation, volunteers are better adjusted and more satisfied with their lives than a comparable group of older persons who were not involved in the program.



Figure 7. A Foster Grandparent volunteer working with school children (image featured in ACTION's 1980 FGP 15th Anniversary Report)



- **1971: ACTION agency created (L)** (under Reorganization Plan No.1 of 1971) to administer all community-based service programs sponsored by the Federal government. The agency houses domestic volunteer programs originally established by:

- The Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW)-- including the Older Americans Volunteer Program (FGP and RSVP)
- The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)-- including Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and the National Student Volunteer Program
- The Department of State - the Peace Corps
- The Small Business Administration—including Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the Active Corps of Executives (ACE)



Figure 8. The official logo of the ACTION agency.



- **1971: Retired Senior Volunteer Program begins; (SCPEs)** the first 11 pilot projects are funded for \$500,000. The program is designed to provide older adults (60+) with flexible opportunities to use their skills and expertise to help solve the problems affecting their local communities. The program's motto is "People Serving People" and key components include allowing volunteers to:

- Participate regardless of income level (volunteers do not receive a stipend).
- Serve anywhere from 4-40 hours a week (to allow greater flexibility)
- Meet pressing needs in their local community
- Choose their volunteer placement from a wide range of settings such as crisis hotlines, literacy programs, job training programs, teen pregnancy and support services, drug abuse prevention and treatment centers, refugee support services, disaster relief services, and many more



- **1971: Second White House Conference on Aging (CoMs).** President Nixon convenes more than 4,000 attendees and recommendations lead to the creation of the Senate Special

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Committee on Aging and the Federal Council on Aging. During the conference, Nixon places a special emphasis on the important role of senior service programs and advocates for the expansion of RSVP and FGP. The conference also recommends that the FGP be expanded to include services “by older persons to older persons” (aka- the Senior Companion Program).



- **1971: National Association of FGP Directors (NAFGPD) founded (SCPEs)** to serve as the principal advocate for the FGP in general, for the furtherance of the goals of the FGP, and for the well-being of its volunteers. NAFGPD supports and connects directors nationwide and regionally, facilitates communication between FGP staff and CNCS, and employs a full-time Washington, DC representative to advocate on the organization’s behalf to Congress.



- **1972: Congress dramatically increases funding for RSVP and FGP. (L)** In the aftermath of the 1971 White House Conference on aging, Nixon follows through on his commitment to increase funding for RSVP and FGP.

- RSVP funding goes from \$500,000 to \$15 million (2900% increase, 30x larger)
- FGP funding goes from \$10 million to \$25 million (150% increase, 2.5x larger)

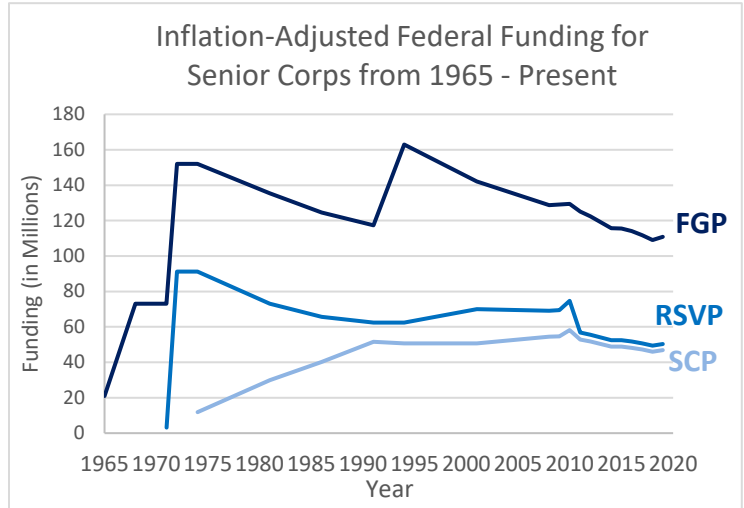


Figure 8. Inflation-Adjusted Federal Funding for Senior Corps Programs from 1965 to Present. Notice the large jump in funding from 1971 to 1972, following the 2<sup>nd</sup> White House Conference on Aging.



- **1973: Domestic Volunteer Service Act (DVSA) of 1973 authorizes FGP, RSVP, and SCP (L)** —Formally re-authorizes RSVP and FGP, provides the initial authorization for the Senior Companion Program (under Title II, Section 211(b)), and replaces Title 6 of the Older Americans Act as ACTION’s enabling legislation.



- **1973: Saltz’s 4-year longitudinal evaluation of FGP impact on institutionalized children’s IQ and social competence. (Es)** The evaluation compares 81 institutionalized children (aged 16 months to 6 years) who received FGP services to children in a similar institution and found a significant difference in IQ in favor of the FGP group. The FGP group made average progress over long periods of institutionalization in IQ-test scores and in the development of social competence, as measured by Vineland Social Maturity Scale.



Figure 9. This photo from the 1980 Foster Grandparent 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary report shows an early photo of a Foster Grandparent volunteer holding a child while sitting in a rocking chair.

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)



- **1974: Senior Companion Program begins; (SCPEs)** the first 18 projects are funded with an initial appropriation of \$2.3 million. The SCP is based on the FGP model but with the goal of providing support to older adults with loneliness, illnesses, or disabilities to stay in their homes and avoid nursing home care. The program's core components include:



Figure 10. First group of directors for Senior Companion Projects at their first training session (as shown in the 1999 Senior Companion Program 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary report).

- Serving many clients in their own homes (a controversial idea at the time due to concerns about the liability and capability of SCP volunteers in unstructured, unsupervised settings)
- Providing low-income (within 125% of the federal poverty level) older adults (60+) with the federal minimum wage (\$1.25/hour), a free meal, transportation reimbursement, and a free annual physical examination
- Having older adults serve for 4 hours a day, 5 days a week (20 hours total)



- **1976: Amendments to the DVSA expand FGP services (L)** by defining "child" as any individual less than 21 years of age and including a stipulation that a Foster Grandparent's relationship with a mentally retarded child may, under certain circumstances, be continued after the child reaches the chronological age of 21.



- **1976: National Association of RSVP Directors (NARSVPD) founded (SCPEs)** to provide visibility and advocacy for RSVP, a network of communications among RSVP Directors and projects, and a voice on behalf of RSVP to CNCS, Congress and other appropriate government agencies.



- **1978: National Association of SCP Directors (NASCPD) founded (SCPEs)** to provide visibility and advocacy for SCP, a network of communications among SCP Directors and projects, and a voice on behalf of SCP to CNCS, Congress and other appropriate government agencies.

**1980s**

21%

47.3 Million Adults 55+



73.7 years



- **1980: FGP celebrates their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)** and there are more than 17,000 volunteers in more than 200 projects nationwide. Volunteers serve children who are mentally retarded, physically handicapped or suffer sight or hearing impairments, a language disorder, or a specific learning disability. They also serve children who



Figure 11. Cover of the ACTION pamphlet dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program. The cover shows a Foster Grandparent hugging a child.



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have been abused or neglected, juvenile offenders, and those in need of foster care.

- **1980: National Older Volunteer Program Directors Association (now known as the National Senior Corps Association, or NSCA) founded (SCPEs)** to ensure federal support and program flexibility for Foster Grandparent, RSVP, and Senior Companion programs nationwide. Embracing the three programs within one association, NSCA is the recognized national leadership organization representing the interests of all Senior Corps programs.

- **1981: Third White House Conference on Aging (CoMs).** President Reagan convenes more than 2,300 delegates and 1,500 observers gathered in the first conference to use a quota-system to ensure equitable representation from women, minorities, and people with disabilities. Key recommendations include strengthening the Social Security system, prohibiting mandatory retirement ages, increasing the availability of home-and community-based health care, and emphasizing preventative health.

- **1982: Ziegler and King's evaluation (Es)** found that hospitalized children who receive visits from FGP volunteers show behavioral improvements similar to those observed among children who have visits from their parents. However, these benefits appear to be limited to the time when the volunteer is present, as such the authors recommend that FGP volunteers be able to spend as much time with children as possible and be present during times when the child is likely to have high levels of anxiety (e.g. around the time of painful procedures or operations).

- **1982: "To Love a Child" song and book (SCPEs)** are inspired by FGP and are released by Frank Sinatra and Nancy Reagan, respectively. All proceeds from both the song and the book go to support the program. Nancy Reagan hosted a "To Love a Child" event at the White House with FGP participants and performed the song with Sinatra-- making it the official FGP theme song.



Figure 12. Nancy Reagan, Frank Sinatra and some school children singing on stage at the "To Love a Child" event on the White House lawn. Photo courtesy of the White House Historical Association.

- **1983: Reagan declares National Year of Volunteerism and releases "A Nation At Risk" report (L)** emphasizing pressing needs in the educational system. As a result of this report and growing national attention on this issue, SC volunteers intensify services in schools.

- **1984: Domestic Volunteer Service Act reauthorized (L)** to continue federal funding and support for FGP, SCP, and RSVP.

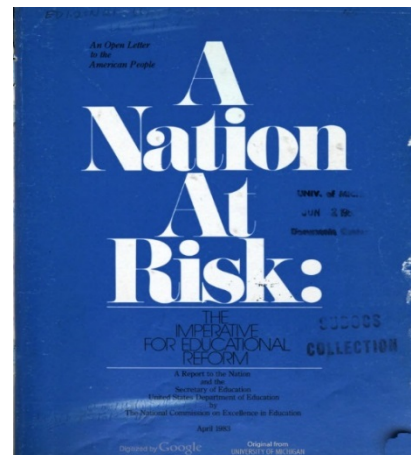


Figure 13. The cover of Ronald Reagan's 1983 report "A Nation At Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform" that sparked intensified SC efforts in schools.

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- **1984: Litigation Services conducts a 3-year longitudinal FGP evaluation** for ACTION and found that FGP volunteers have better mental, social, economic and physical functioning than individuals on the waiting list for the program.



- **1985: Booz, Allen, and Hamilton conduct a 3-year longitudinal RSVP evaluation (Es)** for ACTION that examined impacts of the program on the mental and physical health and social and economic resources of participants (including analyses of new participants relative to more experienced participants). RSVP was found to attract a healthier group of senior citizens, and those who continued participation had improved or stable levels of functioning.



- **1985: SRA Technologies completes a 5-year longitudinal SCP evaluation (Es)** for ACTION comparing active SCP volunteers to individuals on the waiting list to participate as SCP volunteers, and comparing SCP clients to those on a waiting list to receive SCP services. Results found that SCP volunteers showed improvements in economic circumstances and mental health functioning and were more able to adjust to health limitations than those on the waiting list. Furthermore, clients who received SCP services had more stable social resources, increased adjustment to health limitations, and had slower increases in areas of serious impairment than those on the waiting list.

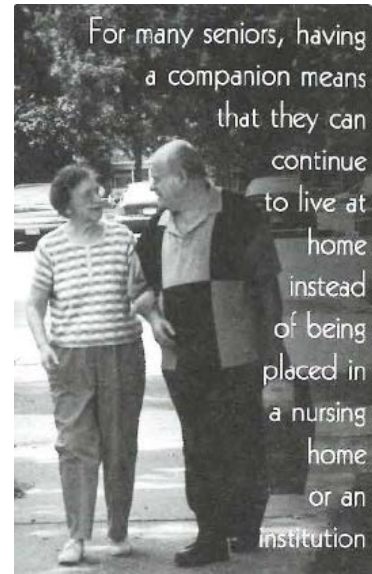


Figure 15. This image from the 1999 Senior Companion Program 25th anniversary report shows a SCP volunteer with their client.



- **1989: FGP expands in new areas (SCPEs)** such as AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic abuse, juvenile delinquency, literacy, and support for the dying and the mentally ill. FGP also implements initiatives to decrease discrimination and increase enrollment of minorities and men.



Figure 14. Excerpt from the 1989 ACTION annual report that details some the new areas that the FGP program will be working on.

### New FGP Projects

As a result of an increase in FGP's appropriation in FY 1989, ACTION awarded 12 new FGP project grants in the South and Southwest. These new projects focus volunteer resources on children identified as being at risk of substance abuse, physical/sexual abuse and abandoned/neglected. They may be status offenders or caught up in the juvenile justice system.

The projects are located in La Grange, Georgia; Black Mountain, Raleigh, Waynesville, Greensboro and Shelby, North Carolina; Laurens, South Carolina; Henderson, Clarksville, Nashville and Fayetteville, Tennessee and Nederland, Texas.



- **1989: Saltz longitudinal FGP evaluation (Es)** was conducted at the Detroit Foster Grandparent Program and found positive effects on life-satisfaction and adjustment for the

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participants (relative to a comparison) after 1 and 2 years of participation in the program and again after 7 years.

1990s

21% 52.3 Million Adults 55+  75.4 years



- **1990: National and Community Service Act (L)** —signed by President Bush, this legislation authorizes grants to schools to support service learning through Serve America and demonstration grants. Learn and Serve America is created.



- **1990: FGP celebrates their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)** and Barbara Bush hosts a White House reception and is named an honorary Foster Grandparent. At this time, the program has more than 20,000 volunteers who provide services to disabled and chronically ill children, teen parents, boarder babies (born addicted to drugs and left in the care of hospitals), teenagers with substance abuse problems, homeless children, victims of child abuse, juvenile delinquents, and illiterate children.



- **1990: ACTION's SCP Long-Term Care Demonstration Project evaluation (Es)** showed that the program has positive impacts on volunteers' economic resources but not social resources, mental health, or physical health (relative to a comparison group of non-SCP volunteers), and that the program has positive impacts on clients' social resources (relative to a comparison group).



- **1991: SCP Alzheimer's Association In-Home Respite Care Demonstration (Es)** was funded by ACTION and used family surveys, SCP volunteer surveys, and surveys of SCP administrators/directors. Survey results suggested that SCP volunteers can provide dependable and much appreciated care to families of Alzheimer patients.



- **1992: RTI evaluates RSVP's Activities in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Education. (Es)** RTI used mail and telephone surveys to collect data on activities in RSVP Projects and Volunteer Stations in three sites: Bellingham, Washington, a school-based activity targeted at-risk youth; Bucks County, Pennsylvania, a prevention of prescription drug misuse by older adults; and Elkhart, Indiana, use of volunteers in probation services.

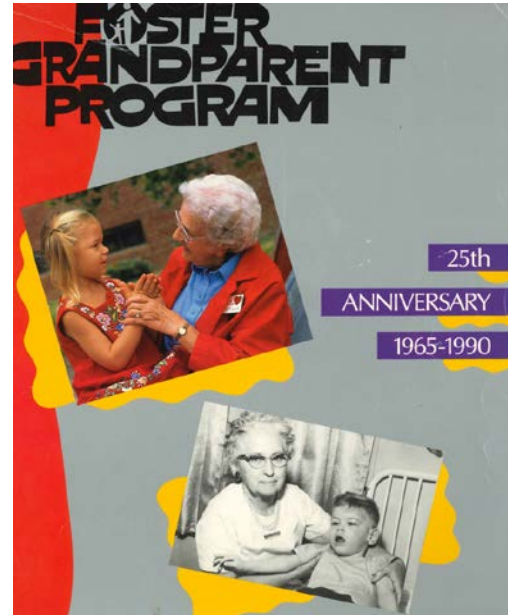


Figure 16. Cover page of the Foster Grandparents 25th anniversary booklet.



Figure 17. From the Foster Grandparents 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet, Linda Lee Davis and Macaria Hayes make Mrs. George Bush an Honorary Foster Grandparent.

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)

This implementation study describes successful drug and alcohol abuse prevention activities and program elements that could be expanded by ACTION through additional training and technical assistance.



- **1993: Corporation for National and Community Service created (SCPEs)** under the National and Community Service Trust Act (to replace ACTION) and incorporates the following programs:

- **AmeriCorps**—incorporating VISTA and NCCC
- **National Senior Volunteer Corps (Senior Corps)** – incorporating RSVP, FGP, and SCP. RSVP changes the name from “Retired Senior Volunteer Program” to “Retired AND Senior Volunteer Program,” lowers the age for participation from 60 to 55 and eliminates the requirement that volunteers no longer be in the workforce.



- **1993: Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) passed.** (L) GPRA is designed to improve the performance of all federal agencies (including CNCS) by requiring agencies to develop strategic plans and measure their effectiveness against specific performance goals. This leads to an increased focus on outcome measurement and evaluation across the federal government including at CNCS and in Senior Corps.



- **1994: CNCS/ACTION nationwide evaluation of FGP (Es)** was based on more than 40 research questions designed to describe program activities, determine degrees of community support, ascertain program impact, and assess factors pertinent to program effectiveness. The program showed that overall, volunteers report being satisfied with the program and station supervisors report improvements in the well-being, self-esteem, and social skills of children served.



Figure 18. The official logo of the Corporation for National and Community Service as well as the logos of its two main programs AmeriCorps and Senior Corps.

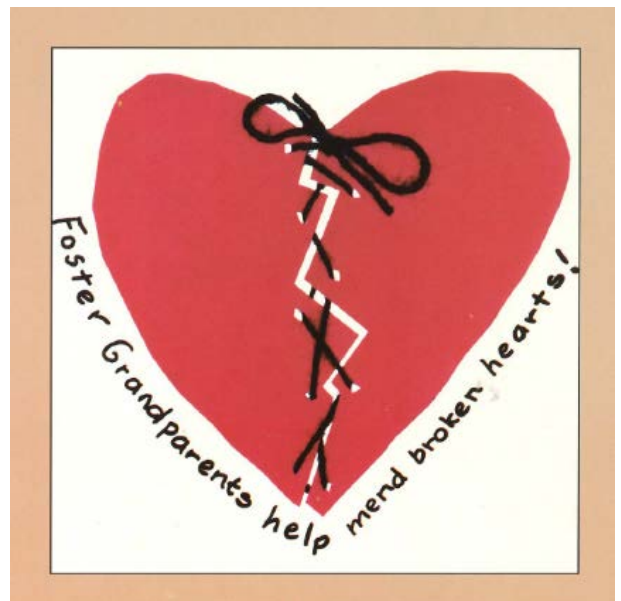


Figure 19. A drawing from a child receiving FGP services, image featured in the 1985 brochure "Foster Grandparent Program: Where Love Grows"

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)



- **1994: CNCS/ACTION nationwide evaluation of the Joint Initiative for the Vulnerable Elderly (Es)** (a collaboration started in 1990 between ACTION and AoA) used a combination of telephone interviews, site visits, and analyses of data on Senior Companions and clients. This study showed that SCP volunteers provided help with household activities and there were psychological benefits to clients, and that volunteers improved their financial stability, sense of purpose, and self-esteem over the three-year evaluation period.



- **1995: Fourth White House Conference on Aging (CoMs)** conducted under President Clinton, more than 125,000 people participated in more than 1,000 mini-conferences around the country during the two-year planning process. The conference celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act, Medicare, and Medicaid and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Social Security Act. CNCS and the Senior Corps programs garner strong support.



- **1995: Congress makes \$1 million in funding available for new demonstration projects. (L)** CNCS issues a Request for Proposals that leads to the creation of the “Experience Corps” (a modified version of FGP designed to operate in schools) and the “Experience Corps for Independent Living” (a modified version of SCP). Both programs give volunteers a stipend, but they remove income requirements, allow volunteers to serve fewer hours, and offer leadership training and skills development to volunteers.



- **1996: CNCS began implementing GPRA requirements under their “Programming for Impact” initiative. (Es)** This included increased performance reporting requirements for grantees and a focus on outcome and impact measurement rather than traditional output measurement.



- **1997: Clinton announces the America Reads Initiative (L)** and FGP and RSVP programs expand investments in early literacy and school-based reading programs.

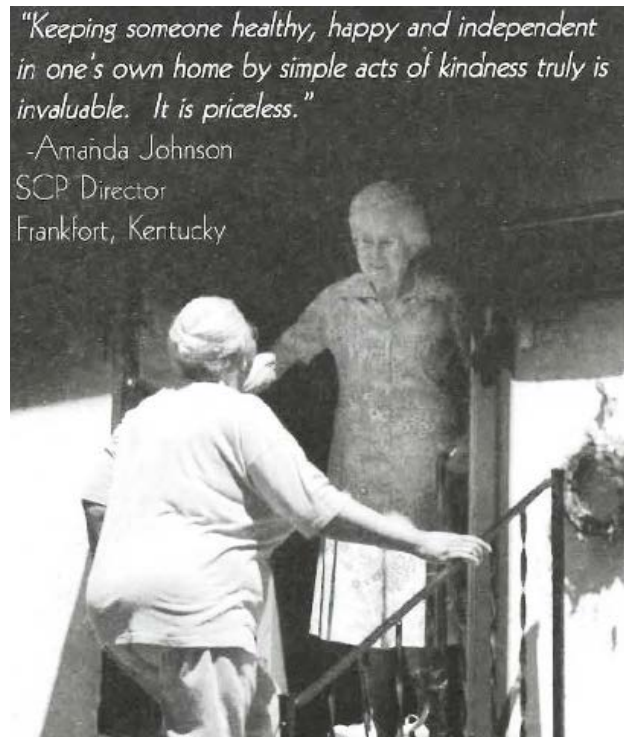


Figure 20. A Senior Companion visiting with a client at their home and a quote from an SCP director featured in the 1999 Senior Companion Program 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary report.



Figure 21. The America Reads logo from a 1997 report published by the Department of Education

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)



- **1997: CNCS RSVP evaluation from 1996-1997 (Es)** reports on the satisfaction and accomplishments of RSVP volunteers through a nationally representative survey. RSVP volunteers had high levels of satisfaction; station volunteer supervisors reported high levels of satisfaction with their RSVP volunteers, as well as moderately high satisfaction levels with the projects; and the accomplishments of RSVP volunteers positively affected their communities and stations that housed them.



- **1998: Clinton launches 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (L)** to provide federal funding to before and after school programs. Senior Corps volunteers provide tutoring and other services to children in these expanded programs.



- **1998: Civic Ventures Experience Corps 18-month Pilot Study (Es)** is funded by CNCS and run by Linda Fried, MD (from Johns Hopkins University) and Marc Freedman (from Civic Ventures). The pilot study shows that FGP and RSVP volunteers can be mobilized through Experience Corps to help improve inner-city elementary schools. Interviews and site visits suggested that the program resulted in children receiving more personal attention, enhanced school services and support for teachers, and stronger school ties to the community. Additionally, volunteers reported that the program resulted in improvements in their well-being and health. Following the pilot study, Experience Corps is expanded into the Seniors for Schools initiative that allowed volunteers of all incomes to serve less than 15 hours a week and shifted the program focus to improving literacy for children in K-3rd grade.



- **1998: Westat conducts FGP Head Start Evaluation (Es)** designed to identify the effective practices of FGP volunteers serving in Head Start centers. This qualitative evaluation selected six successful FGP Head Start projects to study in depth and results suggested that FGP volunteers support children's emotional well-being, self-esteem and self-efficacy, language development, cognitive development. Results also suggested that FGP volunteers contribute positively to the classroom and the center.



Figure 22. President Bill Clinton launched several educational initiatives in the 1990s (including the America Reads challenge and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative) that lead to increased Senior Corps involvement in schools.

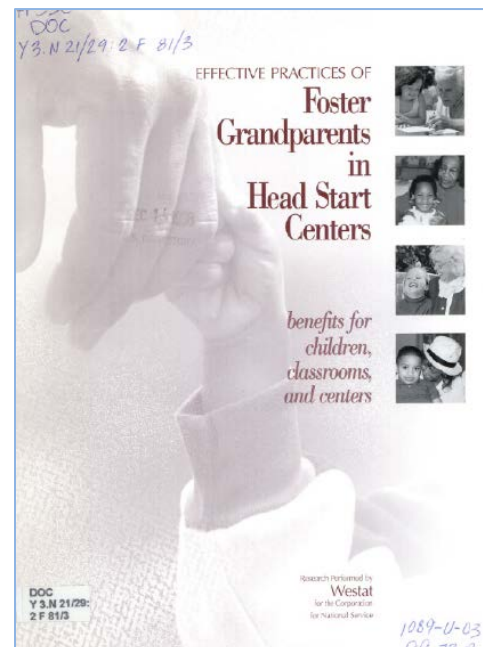


Figure 23. Cover of the 1998 Westat evaluation report examining the effective practices of FGP volunteers in Head Start Centers

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)



- **1998: CNCS enters a partnership with the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) and launches the Experience Corps for Independent Living initiative (SCPEs)** designed to attract a wider pool of volunteers than SCP by removing income restrictions, allowing younger volunteers (those 55+) to serve, allowing greater flexibility in hours (15 or fewer hours/week), and offering both direct and indirect service provision (e.g.- organizing and planning events or trainings in addition to one-on-one services).



- **1999: CNCS Accomplishment Reports (Es)** describe results from randomly sampled national surveys of SCP, RSVP, and FGP volunteers and station supervisors. The survey on SCP concluded that Senior Companions provided nurturing and support to frail adults. RSVP volunteers participated in a variety of activities including providing support to individuals in healthcare settings and more specialized health areas such as mental health, mental retardation, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS. This report also showed that FGP volunteers provided nurturing and support to children that helped them stay in school and freed up costly resources of teachers and teacher's aides.



- **1999: SCP celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)** with more than 14,400 volunteers and 150 projects nationwide.



Figure 24. Map of United States showing the locations of active Senior Companion Projects in 1999. The number of projects increased from 18 in 1974 to 220 in 1999. Photo obtained from the 1999 SCP 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary report.

**2000s**



59.3 Million Adults 55+



76.8 years



- **2000: Amendments to the Older Americans Act (L)** reinstate the act (after four years without legislation) and establish the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) to provide services to family and informal caregivers that help them care for their loved ones at home such as individual and group counseling, training, and respite care. The Senior Companion Program, with a similar mission to help seniors remain in their homes, often helps connect clients and caregivers with support services funded by the Older Americans Act (such as those provided through NFCSP).

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)



- **2001: RSVP celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)** with more than 450,000 volunteers and 760 projects nationwide. Volunteers serve between four and 40 hours a week in areas such as service to youth, community and economic development, environmental protection, health services, and public safety.



- **2002: Bush's State of the Union Address Calling Americans to Volunteer Service (L)**—After 9/11 President George W. Bush asked all Americans to devote two years or 4,000 hours to volunteer service during their lifetime.



- **2002: Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) instituted (L)** by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under President Bush to rate all federal programs on their effectiveness.



- **2002: Congress prohibits the use of appropriated funds for SC demonstrations (L)** leading Experience Corps and ECIL to seek out other funding sources. Despite this, Experience Corps continues to use the Demonstration Authority to apply “income disregard” authority for its volunteers’ stipends (i.e.- allowing stipends to be considered non-taxable income).



- **2002: CNCS Senior Corps Futures Study (Es)** used interviews and focus groups across all three programs to offer recommendations for the future. Recommendations included increasing project budgets to hire more staff, paying for travel, allowing programs more flexibility in spending their grants, raising the income guidelines for volunteer eligibility, increasing the stipends for volunteers, eliminating age-based terminology, re-emphasizing traditional concerns for the welfare of volunteers, and designing more in-depth training for volunteers.



- **2003: Experience Corps for Independent Living becomes an AmeriCorps direct national service grantee (SCPEs)** and changes its name to the Legacy Corps for Health and Independent Living.



- **2003: CNCS SCP Quality of Care evaluation (Es)** compares SCP volunteers, clients, and client families/caregivers to comparison individuals at three time points. Results suggest that SCP clients benefit significantly mentally and physically from the program at 3 months (relative to those on the waiting list and/or receiving other agency services).



- **2004-2013: Experience Corps Baltimore RCT (Es)** shows positive impacts of Experience Corps on participating schools, children (reading scores and behavior), and program

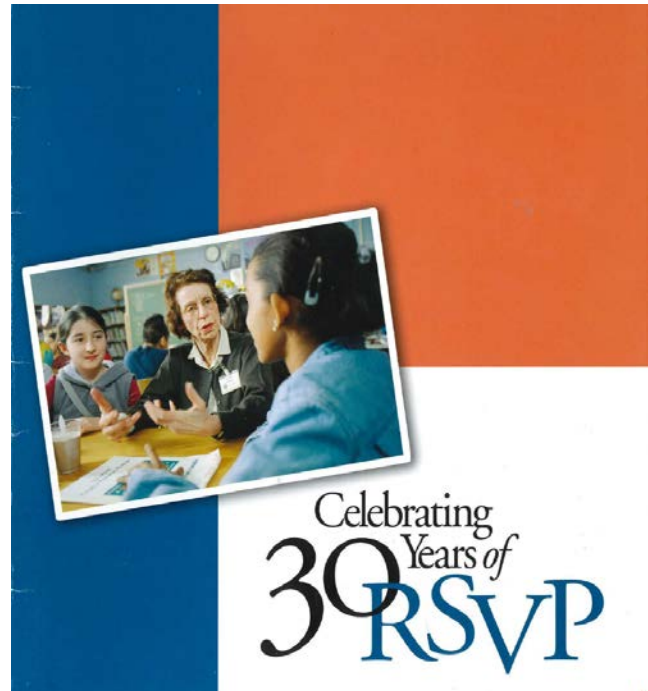


Figure 25. Cover page of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program 30th anniversary report



## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)

participants (including levels of physical activity, executive functioning, memory, brain functioning and volume, depression, functionality).



- **2005: Westat Conducts Service Recipient studies for FGP and SCP. (Es)**
  - The FGP study collected data on outputs, immediate outcomes, and end outcomes of mentoring activities of the Foster Grandparent Program from a representative sample of the organizations in which FGs served. FGs were listed as either more effective or as effective as other volunteers, and a majority of stations said that young and elementary school children showed a fair amount or a lot of improvement in their academic performance after working with a volunteer.
  - The SCP study used a national telephone survey with SCP service recipients to explore the types of services performed by SCs, what effect these services have on the recipients, and the clients' satisfaction with their individual SCs and the program generally. Results indicated that clients viewed SCP services as very important and overall were very satisfied with the program.



- **2005: Fifth White House Conference on Aging under President George W. Bush (CoMs)** focuses on addressing the needs of the baby boomer generation as they move into retirement. CNCS uses the conference to launch a “Get Involved” recruitment campaign to entice baby boomers to participate in national service. .



- **2006: Sandra Butler conducts a SCP outcome evaluation (Es)** drawing from data of an in-depth examination of the impact of SCP in one rural county of Maine. This project involved face-to-face interviews with all the SCs in the county and a convenience sample of their clients, which included demographic questions, open-ended questions and four standardized scales. SCP volunteers and clients were reported to have low levels of depression and loneliness and increased companionship.



- **2007: CNCS releases research reports on volunteering and health for baby boomers. (Es)** The reports review research showing that volunteering has positive health benefits for older adults and research showing that baby boomers volunteer at higher rates than past

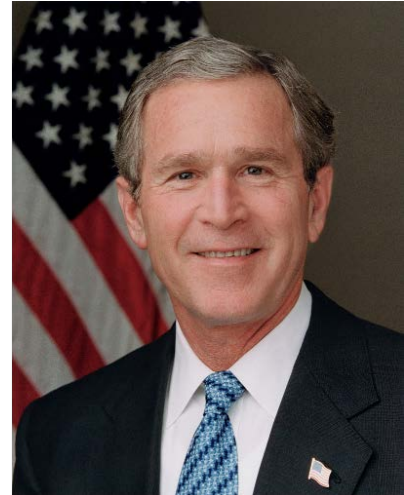


Figure 26. President George W. Bush oversaw the 5th White House Conference on Aging and called for increased national service following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

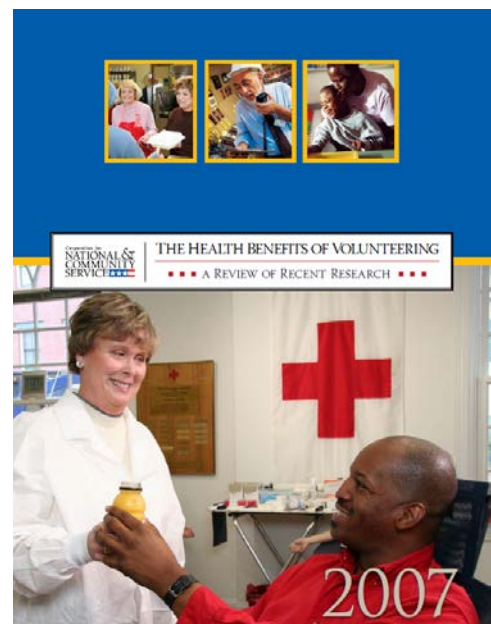


Figure 27. Cover of the 2007 CNCS report on the health benefits of volunteering in general and for older adults in particular

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)

generations, that remaining in the workforce increases the likelihood that a baby boomer will continue to volunteer, and baby boomers' relatively high volunteer rate is tied to their increased education level and propensity to have children later in life.



- **2008: CNCS releases Senior Corps Outcome Evaluation (Es)** based on nationwide surveys conducted from 2004-2006. Surveys were administered to SCP clients, FGP supervisors (to assess the program's observed impacts on children), and RSVP participants (to assess motivations for volunteering and increase recruitment among baby boomers).



- **2009: Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act signed (L)** on April 21, 2009. The act is a bipartisan law signed by President Obama to expand and strengthen national service programs. The law:

- Lowers the age eligibility for FGP and SCP from 60 to 55
- Increases FGP and SCP income eligibility from 125% to 200% of federal poverty level
- Initiates open competitions for RSVP grants (beginning with grants funded in FY2013) and established a 3-year grant cycle



Figure 28. President Barack Obama signing the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act in 2009.



- **2009: OMB released "Increased Emphasis on Program Evaluations" memorandum (L)** to emphasize the importance of rigorous, independent program impact evaluations and to announce efforts to increase public awareness of federal evaluations, an inter-agency evaluation working group, and increase funding for evidence-based programs.

**2010s**



76.8 Million Adults 55+



78.7 years



- **2010: GPRA Modernization Act (L)** expanded the 1993 Act with investments to improve data and reporting tools and facilitate the sharing of GPRA data across agencies and with the public.



- **2011: Experience Corps becomes part of the AARP Foundation (SCPEs)** but Experience Corps continues to operate under CNCS's demonstration authority in order to ensure that volunteers can receive untaxable stipends.

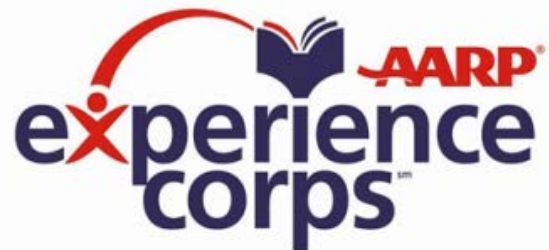


Figure 29. The logo for the AARP Experience Corps program (which operates under Senior Corps' demonstration authority)



- **2012: RSVP Disaster Services Evaluation (Es)** describes the effective implementation of the RSVP program during the 2012 Colorado Wildfires. Evidence showed that RSVP grantees can recruit, train, and deploy volunteers in disaster service-specific roles and in dual benefit roles in support of community resilience.

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)



- **2013-2014: CNCS Cross-sectional Evaluation (Es)** (published in 2016) compares FGP and SCP volunteers to a propensity score matched sample of volunteers and non-volunteers drawn from the Health and Retirement Study and shows that FGP and SCP participants were significantly less likely to report poor/fair health and reported higher life satisfaction than both matched volunteers and non-volunteers.



- **2013-2019: Van Orden and Conwell RSVP Suicide RCT (Es)** examines the impact of participation in an RSVP Peer Companionship program on reducing risk for suicide in lonely older adults. Results are not yet available but are anticipated to be published in 2019 or 2020.



- **2014: CNCS SCP Independent Living Study (Es)** utilizes client and caregiver surveys to assess experiences and perceptions of program benefits. Results showed high levels of satisfaction with SCP and participants reported high rates of perceived social support and self-efficacy.



- **2015: Sixth White House Conference on Aging (CoMs)** marked the 50th anniversary of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act, as well as the 80th anniversary of Social Security. Key themes included retirement security, healthy aging, long-term services and supports, and elder justice. At this time roughly 28% of the U.S. population is 55 years of age or older, representing a nearly 10% increase from when the FGP began in 1965 (according to the US Census) and the average life expectancy has also increased by 11 years from 68 to 79.

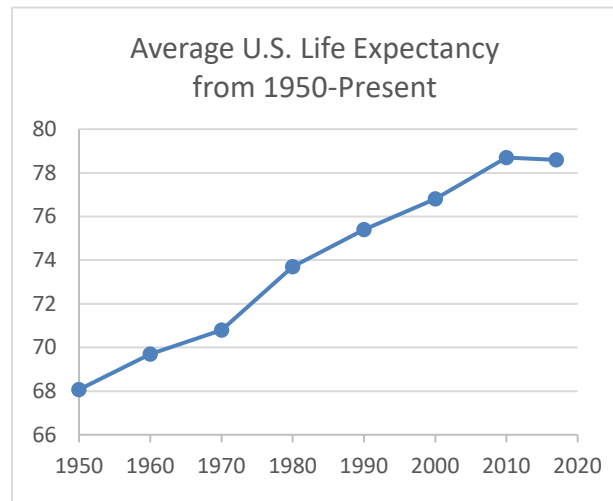


Figure 30. Data from the National Vital Statistics Report showing increases in the U.S. life expectancy from 68 in 1950 to nearly 79 in 2015.



- **2015: FGP celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (SCPEs)** with more than 28,000 volunteers serving more than 230,000 children.



- **2015: CNCS RSVP National Study** describes characteristics of a randomly selected sample of RSVP volunteers from across the United States. The results concluded that majority of RSVP volunteers are white, non-veteran, retired women with an income between \$20,000 and \$40,000, and have earned a bachelor's degree. Also, the results showed that RSVP volunteers remained in service for a long period of time, and RSVP volunteers spent approximately 22 hours in the month prior to the survey engaged in their service activity.



Figure 31. The official logo for the 50th anniversary of the Foster Grandparents Program

## Senior Corps Timeline: Celebrating over 50 years of National Service (1965-Present)



- **2016-2018: CNCS combats the opioid epidemic (SCPEs)**- CNCS invests \$27.9 million between 2016-2018 to support AmeriCorps and Senior Corps efforts to combat the opioid crisis. For Senior Corps most of these investments go to RSVP volunteers who work at prescription drug take-back events and distribute drug prevention information.



- **2017: SCP Caregivers Study (Es)** consisted of 56 caregivers who completed baseline and follow-up surveys. The surveys showed that SCP caregivers improved in their self-rated health and well-being after receiving a year of support relative to other adult caregivers in the general population.



- **2018: CNCS Longitudinal study (from 2015-2018) (Es)** showed that first-time FGP and SCP volunteers were primarily female, racially and ethnically diverse, and most were retired. Also, volunteers reported a positive experience with the training and support they received from their program. FGP and SCP volunteers reported positive impacts on physical health and well-being relative to a matched comparison group.



- **2019: CNCS releases new regulations for FGP and SCP (SCPEs)** including:
  - Reducing hours requirements (from 15 hours/week to 5 hours/week) with a minimum of 260 hours of annual service
  - Replacing the annual physical exam requirement with cost reimbursements for optional physical exams
  - Revising the non-stipend volunteer requirement to mirror the stipended volunteer requirements (allowing them to serve at the same site, have the same hours requirements, and no longer need to operate through RSVP)
  - Reducing training requirements for all volunteers



- **2020 and Beyond: Based on evidence of positive impact, Senior Corps develops plans to serve the expanding needs of the aging U.S. population. (SCPEs)** In 2035 older adults are projected to outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history, and by 2060 nearly 1 in 4 U.S. residents will be of retirement age. This dramatic increase in the proportion of the population over 65 will likely result in an increased need for services and supports for older adults. As such, programs like Senior Corps will become increasingly essential to effectively supporting and utilizing the talents of our aging population.

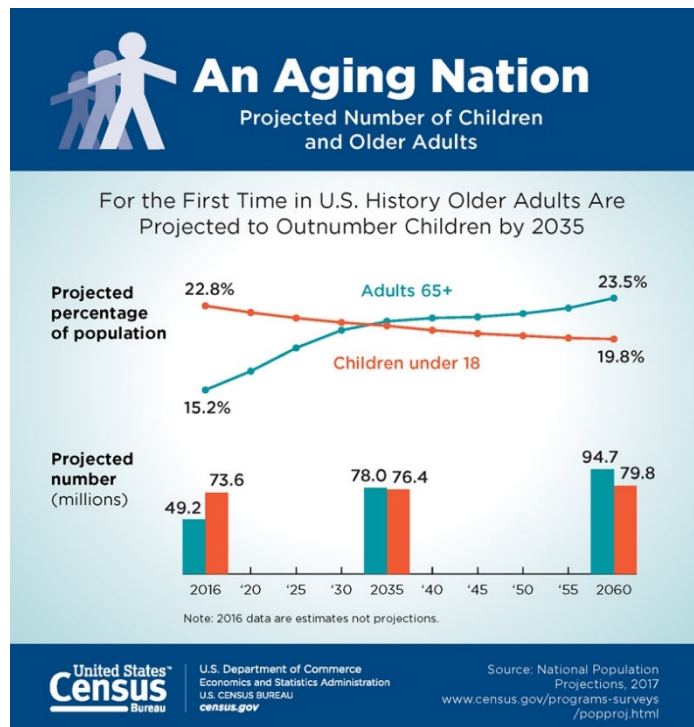


Figure 32. US Census Bureau Depiction of the National Population Projections for Older Adults (65+) and Children (<18) From 2016 to 2060 shows that for the first time in U.S. history older adults are projected to outnumber children