

Name: Suesan Harrington

Project Location: North Central- Flint Hills AAA Foster Grandparent Program is located in the Flint Hills of Kansas serving Riley, Geary, Dickinson and Saline County in Kansas. Our program covers over 2,500 miles, and includes Fort Riley Army Base which impacts all four counties served. Manhattan is also the home of Kansas State University.

Which CNCS Project(s) do you manage: Foster Grandparent Program. Our focus is early childhood education, elementary education, and children of military families.

How long have you been working with Senior Corps? I have been the Program Director of the Foster Grandparent Program since 2007 when the agency was awarded the grant. I have served as a Cluster Representative on the NAFGPD Board since 2008.

What are you most passionate about professionally? I love working with seniors and being part of their personal growth. Something magical happens when you bring these seniors and the children together. I love watching both the child and the grandparent learn, grow and bond together from their interactions.

Personally? My family and K-State Football.

What would you do even if you didn't get paid to do it? I would continue to work with seniors in different capacities, such as delivering home delivered meals or serving on senior boards.

What are you surprisingly good at? Wood carving and quilting.

What's the biggest proof that you're good at what you do?

Observing the grandparent's interactions with the children and listening to them share their stories about the children they serve. Knowing the grandparents are having an impact on the children they serve. I also love reading the evaluations the grandparent's complete on the program and the teacher's evaluations of the program and of the grandparents.

What's your biggest Senior Corps accomplishment? Since we have a military base in our service area, our program has a major focus on children of military families. We have grandparents serving at the elementary schools on base and at schools off the base that are 75-85% military children. Our program has sponsored the "CHAMPS" (Child Heroes Attached to Military Personnel) program. A literacy project with group exercises designed to help them in their loss of

normalcy when dealing with a parent's deployment, injury and or wound, and loss of friendships when being transferred or leaving the service.

I have also served on the NAFGPD Senior Corp conferences.

Anything else you want to share...