

Foster Grandparent Program Newsletter

August 2026



Message from Foster Grandparents Program



Hello FGP Volunteers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful summer spent with family and friends. We are excited to begin another school year and can't wait to see the positive impact you will make in our classrooms.

Back-to-School Information

All schools and teachers are looking forward to welcoming you back. Before returning to your school assignment, please wait for your individual return-to-school appointment.

Each volunteer will receive:

- School assignment and return date. (Joni will contact you with your assigned return date and time.)
- A scheduled appointment with FGP staff at their station.
- A meet-and-greet with school staff, if needed.
- Completion of all required paperwork.
- New volunteer folders, timesheets, and other program materials.

Please do not return directly to your school or classroom until you have received your appointment.

Some volunteers may be assigned to new schools, classrooms, or teachers. As many of you know, several teachers throughout APS have retired, changed grade levels, or now have interns, student aides, or student teachers assigned to their classrooms. While we are excited to see APS continue to grow and welcome new educators, these changes may mean that some classrooms are no longer able to host Foster Grandparent volunteers. If your assignment is affected, we will work closely with APS to place you in another classroom where your time and talents are needed.

Help Us Grow!

Our goal is to recruit 10 new Foster Grandparent volunteers this year, and we need your help!

If you refer someone who becomes an FGP volunteer and they complete onboarding and serve for six months, you will receive a special thank-you gift card at the end of their six-month period.

Be sure your referral lists you as the person who referred them on their volunteer application.

9/11 Day of Service

FGP will be participating in a 9/11 Day of Service Project by supporting the First Responders participating in the Stair Climb. We are looking for 6 volunteers to help with a snack/hydrations station and information/activity booth. We will also be inviting our classrooms to create encouraging posters for the participants. More details and sign-up information will be shared soon.

August In-Service (Mandatory)

Date: Friday, August 14, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Barelbas Senior Center

This mandatory In-Service will include:

- Annual required CYFD training
- School assignments
- Program updates
- Important information for the upcoming school year

Please plan to attend.

Barelbas Senior Center Closure: Closed to the public August 3–7, 2026.

We are looking forward to another incredible school year. Thank you for the kindness, patience, and encouragement you provide to Albuquerque students every day. Your dedication truly makes a difference, and we are grateful to have you as part of the Foster Grandparent Program.

Have a wonderful rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

The Foster Grandparent Program Team

Your FGP Team, Marie, Joni & Estelle



DSA Administration



Anna Sanchez
Director

Marina Salazar
Deputy Director

Nikki Peone
Associate Director

Vacant
Community Volunteer
Engagement Manager

Foster Grandparent Staff

Marie Llamas
FGP Supervisor

Joni VanMeir
Volunteer Coordinator

Estelle Chavez
Office Assistant

FGP Office

714 Seventh Street Sw
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-764-6412
Email: fgp@cabq.gov

I am an AmeriCorps Volunteer serving with
the City of Albuquerque to help students succeed in school.



Save the Date ~ ADD to your Calendar

July 30, 2026 - Timesheets Due *due to station closure

August 3-14, 2026 - CDC's are Closed for Summer Break

August 3 - August 7, 2026 Barelas Senior Center Closed

August 3 - August 7, 2026, YDI's Closed for Staff Training

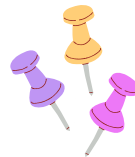
August 7, 2026 - APS Grades 1-12 All back in school

August 11, 2026 - APS Pre-K and K back in school

August 14, 2026 - Mandatory In-Service - Barelas SC @ 10:00 AM

August 20, 2026 - Time sheets Due

August 26, 2026 - RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast



Spotlight

August is a special month for our Service Anniversaries. We have 9 people to celebrate for their time in FGP. Thank you all so much for all you do!

David Cavalier - Aug 17 2018 ~ Christine Gonzales - Aug 8 2016

Jeanette Gurule - Aug 28 2024 ~ Carol Kennedy - Aug 19 2025

Cora Lopez - Aug 8 2023 ~ Elva Louissena - Aug 14 2012

Janis Lowder - Aug 19 2025 ~ Scott Myer - Aug 19 2025

Carl Roybal - Aug 7 2018



Volunteer Badge Policy

It is the standard operating procedure of the Department of Senior Affairs that all volunteers shall wear a DSA-approved identification badge while on City of Albuquerque Property. ID badges must be worn on the outermost layer of clothing above the waist at all times while volunteering.

DSA Membership Card

Please have your senior center membership card ready anytime you come into a city facility. They are required to scan the card each time you come into the facility. This will include when coming to Barelas Senior Center for a meeting, In-Service, Etc. Please stop at the front desk & scan in before coming back to the training room or offices.



Happy Birthday

Nancy Blank
August 7th

Cora Lopez
August 8th

Brenda Batt
August 21st

Carl Roybal
August 21st



2026 AmeriCorps Seniors Nationwide Celebration

Save the Date!

You're invited to join us for a special celebration honoring the spirit of service that strengthens our community. As part of this year's national focus on A Nation of Service, we'll come together to reflect, connect, and celebrate the impact volunteers make every day.

Date

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Time

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

We'll join the national broadcast together from 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET during our local celebration.

Location

Barelas Senior Center, Tingley Room

Hosted by

Foster Grandparent Program

What's Planned

- Connect with fellow volunteers and staff from our project
- Join volunteers and projects from across the country through the national broadcast
- Enjoy time together as a community

We hope you will join us!

For more information, contact:
Joni VanMeir
505-764-6421



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**



Mobile & Community Health Event

August 8th, 10AM to 1PM

Van Buren Middle School

700 Louisiana Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Free Services Offered:

- Blood pressure & Blood Sugar Screening
- BMI & Cholesterol Check
- Health Education and Resources
- Sports Physicals
- Vision & Dental Screenings
- Immunizations

Organizations attending:

Blue Cross Blue Shield • Molina Healthcare •
Presbyterian Community Health • New Mexico
Department of Public Health



FREE SERVICES - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Refreshments will be provided

For More Information:

Cynthia Grajeda-James: cgrajeda-james@bernco.gov

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Some Senior Centers will be closed for employee training

These facilities will be closed

August 3 - August 7, 2026:

Barelas Senior Center

North Valley Senior Center

Bear Canyon Senior Center

Highland Senior Center

Normal business hours will resume on **August 10, 2026.**

During this time, meal services will be available at our other locations:

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center

North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center

Los Volcanes Senior Center

Los Volcanes Sports and Fitness Center

Palo Duro Senior Center

Palo Duro Sports and Fitness Center

Thank you for your cooperation!

You Are Invited
RSVP
**Appreciation
Breakfast**

Join us for an unforgettable
ride down memory lane.



9 AM **26** Wednesday
August

Embassy Suites
1000 Woodward PINE

Call (505)767-5225
to RSVP by August 5th



**FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM
MANDATORY IN-SERVICE**

Friday, August 14, 2026

10:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Barelas Senior Center

714 Seventh Street, Albuquerque, NM

Mandatory Annual CYFD Training

Back to School Training

Program Updates and Information

Lunch Provided

Transportation pick-up begins at 9:00 am

Questions: Call 505.764.6421

Back to School Word Search

B	P	C	Z	C	E	R	X	F	L	R	F	L	M	S
Y	K	R	H	U	E	E	K	J	R	N	L	O	L	C
L	M	A	B	H	X	U	Z	G	V	I	M	J	O	H
Q	L	U	C	R	E	L	U	R	X	U	E	M	H	O
K	S	A	I	C	F	G	L	U	N	C	H	N	N	O
R	E	F	B	S	F	B	W	H	B	Z	G	O	D	L
T	I	H	O	R	N	V	G	S	D	U	O	C	S	S
K	G	Y	O	Z	E	O	M	M	P	E	N	C	I	L
G	H	Y	K	C	X	S	Y	M	W	A	S	V	H	I
B	Y	Y	S	B	R	U	A	A	V	E	F	K	Q	R
H	L	J	X	R	R	L	I	R	R	V	T	K	E	M
S	S	E	C	E	R	K	A	C	E	C	D	Q	Q	Q
W	H	M	P	K	F	M	M	B	H	X	H	A	W	C
C	Z	A	D	E	Y	H	E	T	N	K	Z	M	N	E
W	P	C	H	S	M	C	Y	S	J	W	I	C	Z	F

BOOKS
BUS
CHALK
CRAYONS
DESK

ERASER
FRIENDS
GLUE
LUNCH
PAPER

PENCIL
RECESS
RULER
SCHOOL
TEACHER

MANZANO MESA MULTIGENERATIONAL CENTER
501 ELIZABETH ST. SE, 87123
505-275-8731



FREE
MOBILE
food pantry

Mobile food pantry for the community
supplied by Roadrunner Food Bank.

JUNE 26, 2026 2:00PM-4:30PM

JULY 17, 2026 2:00PM-4:30PM

AUGUST 21, 2026 2:00PM-4:30PM



As part of the New Mexico Grown state initiative, every Thursday, the Department of Senior Affairs will feature a vegetarian meal that incorporates locally sourced fruits, vegetables, beans, or chile into the menu.



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Pork Loin 3oz Gravy 1oz Normandy Blend 4oz Diced Beets 4oz Vanilla Pudding 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	4 Meatloaf 4oz Sweet Potato Mash 4oz Succotash 4oz Jell-O 1ea 1% Milk 8oz	5 Breaded Pollock 4oz Tartar Sauce 1pc Rice Pilaf 4oz Green Beans 4oz Dinner Roll 1ea Margarine 1pc Pear 1ea 1% Milk 8oz	6 Green Chile Veggie Cheeseburger 1ea Cabbage w/ Apples & Onions 4oz Diced Potatoes 4oz Oranges 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	7 Chicken Alfredo 4oz Zucchini w/ Red Peppers 4oz Steamed Broccoli 4oz Applesauce 1ea 1% Milk 8oz
10 Salisbury Steak 4oz Gravy 1oz Scalloped Potatoes 4oz Spinach w/ Onions 4oz Dinner Roll 1ea Margarine 1pc Banana 1ea 1% Milk 8oz	11 Carne Adovada 4oz Calabacitas 4oz Pinto Beans 4oz Flour Tortilla 2ea Apple Slices 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	12 Spaghetti w/ Meatballs 4oz Marinera 2oz Sliced Carrots 4oz Zucchini & Peppers 4oz Grapes 1ea 1% Milk 8oz	13 Cheese Omelet w/ Red Chile 1oz Stewed Tomato 4oz Diced Potatoes 4oz Dinner Roll 1ea Margarine 1pc Pudding 1ea 1% Milk 8oz	14 BBQ Chicken Sandwich 1ea Diced Sweet Potato 4oz Steamed Broccoli 4oz Jell-O 4oz 1% Milk 8oz
17 Teriyaki Beef w/ Brown Rice 4oz Sliced Carrots 4oz Cabbage w/ Apples & Onions 4oz Fortune Cookie 2ea 1% Milk 8oz	18 BBQ Pork 3oz Baked Beans 4oz Spinach w/ Mushrooms 4oz Cornbread 1ea Applesauce 1ea 1% Milk 8oz	19 Shredded Chicken 4oz Brown Rice 4oz Fajita Blend Veggies 4oz Green Beans 4oz Pear 1ea 1% Milk 8oz	20 Vegetable Lasagna 4oz Lima Beans 4oz Garlic Breadstick 1ea Pudding 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	21 Chicken Tamales 2ea Green Chile 2oz Cauliflower 4oz Pinto Beans 4oz Orange 4oz 1% Milk 8oz
24 Sliced Ham w/ Pineapple Sauce 1oz Ranch Beans 4oz Spinach 4oz Cornbread 1ea Peach 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	25 Chicken 3oz Vegetable Stir Fry 4oz Soy Sauce 1pc Brown Rice 4oz Green Beans 4oz Apple Slices 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	26 Beef Steak /Gravy 4oz Grilled Onions 1oz Mashed Potatoes 4oz Corn w/ Peppers 4oz Dinner Roll 1ea Margarine 1pc Watermelon 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	27 Anti-Inflammatory Mediterranean Bean Salad 4oz Broccoli w/ Garlic 4oz Brown Rice 4oz Orange 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	28 Green Chile Cheeseburger 1ea Diced Sweet Potato 4oz Stewed Tomatoes 4oz Jell-O 4oz 1% Milk 8oz
31 Pork Fajitas 4oz Steamed Broccoli 4oz Calabacitas 4oz Tortilla 2ea Orange 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	1 Chicken Parmesan 5oz Brussel Sprouts 4oz Steamed Carrots 4oz Brownie 1ea 1% Milk 8oz	2 Red Chile Beef Enchiladas 4oz Pinto Beans 4oz Spanish Rice 4oz Yogurt 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	3 Elbow Mac & Cheese w/ Broccoli 4oz Spinach/Mushrooms 4oz Wheat Breadstick 1ea Cupped Peaches 4oz 1% Milk 8oz	4 Meatloaf 4oz Green Beans 4oz Cauliflower 4oz Dinner Roll 1ea Margarine 1pc Pear 4oz 1% Milk 8oz