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### **Foster Grandparents Program at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake Schools Receives Governor's Senior Corps Award**

*Volunteer Program Recognized for its Service to Youth Placed at DOC Juvenile  
Institutions*

**MADISON, Wis.** - The Foster Grandparent Program which mentors and tutors youth at the state's two juvenile institutions Copper Lake School (CLS) and Lincoln Hills School (LHS) in Lincoln County was presented with a 2012 Governor's Senior Corps Participant award at a ceremony Thursday in Madison.

Donna Nash, LHS/CLS volunteer coordinator, and Kim Ungerer, LHS/CLS foster grandparent supervisor, accepted the award along with foster grandparent volunteer Gerry Bjelland. Bjelland is one of 20 foster grandparents who work with juveniles at the two secure institutions operated by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC). The volunteer group tutors a reading program and helps youth who fall behind in regular classes. The foster grandparents also spend time in each living unit playing games, baking and developing relationships with the students.

The students and foster grandparents form strong bonds that benefit the students academically and socially. The Senior Corps Participant Award recognizes the dedication and care given by these grandparents and the positive impact they have on the development of the youth.

The Governor's Service Recognitions are presented to programs and individuals participating in organizations funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. In total, six groups or individuals were honored with various awards.

The Foster Grandparent Program at Copper Lake and Lincoln Hills Schools is federally funded through the CNCS and is sponsored by the DOC Division of Juvenile Corrections schools.

Serve Wisconsin, along with the CNCS Wisconsin office and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction presented the annual awards at a ceremony at the Department of Military Affairs office in Madison.

To learn more about the Foster Grandparent Program or to volunteer for the program, contact Donna Nash at 715-536-8386 at extension 1181.

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