



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Council supports the Navajo Nation Foster Grandparent Program



PHOTO: Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty delivers keynote speech at the Navajo Nation Foster Grandparent Program volunteer recognition banquet in Farmington, New Mexico on June 8, 2016.

FARMINGTON, N.M. – On Wednesday, members of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council attended the Navajo Area Agency on Aging Foster Grandparent Program volunteer recognition banquet. This year's annual banquet was held to recognize 108 grandparents that actively volunteer at schools throughout the Navajo Nation.

The Foster Grandparent Program is federally funded under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973. The primary goals of the program are to enable low-income persons age 55-years and older to remain physically, mentally active and enhance their self-esteem through continued participation in needed community services. Also to enable children with either exceptional or special needs to achieve improved physical, mental, emotional, and social development, thereby assisting them in attaining greater independence in life.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'í) thanked the dedicated grandparents who sacrifice their time to support and motivate children.

“It is our grandparents that teach and instill our Diné values into our children, and they are crucial to the health of our culture and language. We must continue to support and advocate for these oft-forgotten patriarchs and matriarchs of our people,” stated Delegate Crotty, who served as the keynote speaker at the banquet.

According to NAAA/NFGP Representative and Navajo Nation Senior Council member Matilda Tahe, the program assists many Navajo children. She also reflected on how the program has motivated many Navajo grandparents to teach the younger generation the Diné way of life.

“There are countless success stories from children and grandparents. The program has allowed bridging the gap between our elders and children. We are honored to teach our grandchildren because we want each one of them to be successful,” stated Tahe.

The program allows the grandparents to volunteer at 210 volunteer host institutions throughout the year including day cares, summer school, youth facilities, and after school programs to tutor and motivate children who struggle academically. The grandparents also teach and encourage children to learn the Navajo language and culture.

“On behalf of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, we extend our appreciation to the 108 grandparents who volunteer to teach, mentor, and motivate our children. We will continue to advocate for the program,” stated Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

For more information on the Navajo Foster Grandparent Program visit http://www.naaa.navajo-nsn.gov/foster_grandparent.html.

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