

WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the national Foster Grandparent Program, the belief that inspired its founding in 1965 could not be truer today for the local Foster Grandparent Program at Catholic Charities now in operation for 35 years. Namely, that low income elders have extraordinary gifts to share with vulnerable children in a wide variety of settings; and

WHEREAS, the social, emotional and academic support offered by loving volunteers has transformed the lives of both the children and volunteers. This simple, cost effective formula has stood the test of time, having weathered winds of political change to emerge in 2015 as a trustworthy and relevant model to serve at risk children for the next 50 years; and

WHEREAS, because of the programs efforts, during the last year this community benefited from 123 Foster Grandparents who provided 117,241 hours of service at 64 sites in Sedgwick County to 3,249 students; and

WHEREAS, Children with special or exceptional needs or circumstances identified as limiting their academic, social or economic development have benefited from these efforts, and older volunteers report lower mortality rates, lower rates of depression, fewer physical limitations and higher levels of well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Richard Ranzau, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim 2015 as the

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

In Sedgwick County, and call upon our citizens to recognize the enormous contributions made by older adults who have volunteered as Foster Grandparents to benefit children and in the process have helped themselves remain productive citizens.

April 22, 2015