



## Restoring Hope

November 15, 2006

We are all familiar with children from third world countries, flies buzzing around their heads, forlorn faces staring at the camera and a voice speaking of their plight. If you actually tune in and allow yourself to engage with their eyes, despair will flood your soul.

The pregnant promise of a life-to-live demands our attention, I'll grant you. Children truly are our future, we must nurture and love them, and provide abundantly for those who are desperately in need of help.

I hurt for the children, but my passion resonates with our elders who lack a voice to speak for them. Who will raise a standard and advertise the cause of needy seniors? Yes, many seniors are comfortable and well taken care of. Most have children and families and friends who make sure the senior has companionship and their needs are met. But not all seniors are so fortunate.

Isolation, poverty, lack of education, no children, children who live far away, natures that are fiercely independent – a combination of one or more of these situations can leave a senior in dire straits. Some seniors are raising grandchildren, as best they can, with few resources but with the knowledge that there was no one else, except for the state, to raise the children. They assert their independence as long as they can, then, when their health begins to falter, they are stuck and don't even realize the serious nature of their situation. Very often, they refuse services that are available to them, and in the end, strongly refuse to leave their home.

These seniors are, by and large, isolated and alone. Yes, they may have a niece close by, even a son in New Jersey – but they stubbornly cling to the mistaken notion that they can manage life all by themselves. Yes, that worked fine for them for most of their lives, but now? It's not really working. Who will speak for them, and stand in the gap?

Adopt-A-Grandparent will. We are there to help individually, one by one, seniors who need and want a friend. Seniors whom others have given up on, who are sometimes heartbroken, bent and near the breaking point from a lifetime of giving. We are undaunted by their situations – largely because we see the spark of fire that is left in their eyes. That tiny spark ignites my passion as I re-double our effort to make a difference in the lives of 85 seniors here in my community, with many more on our waiting list. Will you help us bring hope into the eyes of our seniors? They will thank you, as will I. Please, help us re-ignite the fire in the eyes of our seniors. Give generously to Adopt-A-Grandparent during this holiday season.

Adopt-A-Grandparent Program  
A Partner of FCS URBAN MINISTRIES  
750 Glenwood Avenue, SE, P.O. Box 17628, Atlanta, GA 30316  
Phone: 404-627-4304 Fax: 404-624-5299  
[www.adoptagrandparent.org](http://www.adoptagrandparent.org)

### Advisory Board

**Staci Bruce**  
Chair, AAGP Advisory Board  
Leadership Development Manager  
Hands On Network

**J. Nicole Gearing**  
AAGP National Field Director  
Mrs. Idaho United States 2006

**Christina E. Lennon**  
Executive Director  
Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

**Monica Lewis**  
Assistant to CIO  
World Travel BTI

**Myrna D. Moore**  
Director Of Community Affairs  
TBS Superstation

**Shelly Patton**  
Vice-President of Project Development  
Progressive Redevelopment, Inc.

**Keene L. Reese**  
Vice President  
The Staubach Company

**Sara Schmid**  
Advertising Manager  
Coca Cola Company

**Mason W. Stephenson**  
Managing Partner, Atlanta Office  
King & Spalding, LLP

**James G. White, Jr.**  
President  
Fourth Generation Software

### Advisory Board Emeritus

**James M. Boone**  
**Mary Louise Clarke**

### Staff

**Linda G. Langstraat**  
Director  
[linda@adoptagrandparent.org](mailto:linda@adoptagrandparent.org)

**Shauntay Simpson**  
Assistant to Director  
[shauntay@adoptagrandparent.org](mailto:shauntay@adoptagrandparent.org)

**Doris T. Roberson**  
Homebound Senior Support