

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program Director Toni Robinson retires after 42 years of service

Friends, colleagues, and Foster Grandparent volunteers held a reception on Friday, July 28, to bid farewell and celebrate Toni Robinson for forty-two years of service as program director for AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program-Mobile County (FGP). Robinson's unwavering commitment, passion, and leadership have been instrumental in shaping the FGP into the influential program it is today. Her ability to foster relationships and connect generations has benefited the program volunteers and their mentees and enriched our community as a whole.

During her tenure, Robinson accomplished remarkable feats, including expanding the program's reach and improving its overall effectiveness since its infancy beginning September 25, 1980, when Robinson went door -to door enlisting senior citizens for the federally funded grant program (FGP) matching senior volunteers supporting children with for special needs. Her efforts have ensured that countless seniors and children have benefited from the unique intergenerational connections the FGP facilitates.

"While we are saddened to see her leave, we respect her decision and wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement. We are profoundly grateful for her contributions and leadership to the program," Willie Jackson, FGP volunteer, says. "We are confident that the foundation Robinson built will guide us as we enter a new chapter in our organization's history."

Sharon Mitchell, the newly appointed FGP executive director, echoed Jackson's sentiments and assured senior volunteers that she, too, remains committed to FGP's mission of providing one-on-one mentoring, guidance, and emotional support, particularly for children with exceptional needs. "The children are our future, and we need to do whatever it takes to nurture them and give them a bright future," Mitchell states. Under her leadership, she plans to expand the program to cities in North Mobile such as Saraland, Chickasaw.

The event culminated with Karen Crawford, former FGP Bookkeeper, reading the Commendation for professional achievement for Ms. Toni Robinson presented by the Mobile County Commission – "And whereas the volunteers and staff of AmeriCorps Seniors would like to extend their sincere thanks for Ms. Robinson's guidance, encouragement, motivation, her love,



Toni Robinson smiles as she's read the Commendation for professional achievement from the Mobile County Commission by former employee FG Bookkeeper Karen Crawford

and wanting the best for everyone, and overall contributions for their personal and professional growth and whereas Ms. Robinson has shown herself to be a most admirable leader, gracious mentor, and the best, most generous boss ever, she has left behind a legacy of strong leadership, commitment, and dedication. Now, therefore, let it be resolved that the Mobile County Commissioners and administrators, along with the advisory board, volunteers, and staff, join together in honoring Ms. Robinson for over 42 years of service to residents of Mobile County. Furthermore, we extend our heartfelt best wishes to her for many years as of great health, much happiness, and many blessings.”