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(Parvin) Oct. 19. 1982
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AB

(Parvin/AB)
October 12, 1982
4:00 p.m.

MRS. REAGAN: TO LOVE A CHILD EVENT
OCTOBER 19, 1982

-- Frank, thank you so much, that was beautiful. You know whenever I need a little help Frank is always there. . .he's sort of my foster grandparent. But here is an applause line if I ever heard one -- all the royalties from the song you just heard, like the royalties from the book, will go to the Foster Grandparents Program.

-- Now let me welcome all of you to the White House. I don't think these grounds have ever held so much affection and tenderness. But that is no surprise really. Everyone knows that Foster Grandparents foster love. Some of you have probably read the book Peter Pan to your grandchildren. The man who wrote that book, Sir James Barrie, once said something that I believe captures the spirit and heart of Foster Grandparents. Perhaps it should even be your motto, but he said, "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

-- I think that describes Foster Grandparents perfectly. And while there are thousands of stories to tell, let me tell you about one of the grandparents in the book, Grandma Ruby. After her husband Peter died, Ruby was virtually paralyzed with grief. She lost 20 pounds and couldn't face food. She was helpless, not even understanding how a checking account worked because her Peter had always taken care of it. Her life was disintegrating.

8

One day she looked at Peter's old leather chair and sank to her knees, burying her face in its seat. "Dear God," she prayed. "Give me a reason to live or let me die."

-- Well, Grandma Ruby found that reason in her work with young girls who'd been molested. She brought sunshine to the lives of others and her own life is now bright as well. Let me read you part of a letter she recently sent me. She wrote, "I have received many letters from girls and women all over the country, thanking me for my work and also asking prayers and help for lives that are still hurting. God has surely blessed me and is giving me much to do in my old age. In what amounts to a P.S., she adds, "I was a late bloomer." Well, Ruby may be a late bloomer but she has blossomed into a beautiful rose of love and compassion.

-- And so have all of you foster grandparents. On any given day, there are now over 18,000 grandparents loving 54,000 children, children who have disabilities of one kind or another, children who've been abused or neglected. Right now as we meet, you can bet there is a foster grandparent somewhere with a loving arm around a child who desperately needs that support.

-- I am genuinely proud to be associated with this wonderful program and you wonderful foster grandparents. It means so much to me that you are here today. I wish we could form a big receiving line so I could give everyone of you a hug. Even

though you may not be mentioned in the book, it is about each of you. It is about your open-hearted love. Thank you for caring so much and thank you again for coming.

(Parvin)

MRS. REAGAN: TO LOVE A CHILD EVENT
OCTOBER 19, 1982

--Frank, thank you so much, that was beautiful. You know whenever I need a little help Frank is always there. . . ~~sort~~ ^{he's sort of} ~~of like a foster grandparent himself.~~ ^{But} Now here is an applause line if I ever heard one--the ^{royalties} ~~proceeds~~ from the song ~~you just~~ ^{"To be old" like you just heard,} ~~heard will go~~ to the Foster Grandparents Program.

--But let me welcome all of you to the White House. I don't think these grounds have ever held so much affection and tenderness. But that is no surprise really. Everyone knows that Foster Grandparents foster love. ~~And if that is not already a slogan it should be.~~

~~I'd be willing to bet that~~ some of you ~~foster grandparents~~ ^{probably} have read the book Peter Pan to your grandchildren. The man who wrote that book, Sir James Barrie, once said something that I believe captures the spirit of Foster Grandparents. ~~He~~ ^{hard heart} said, "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

^{I think} --That describes you perfectly. And while there are thousands of stories to tell, let me tell you about one of the grandparents in the book, Grandma Ruby. After her husband died, ~~she~~ ^{Ruby} was virtually paralyzed with grief. She lost 20 pounds and couldn't face food. She was helpless, not even understanding how a checking account worked because her Peter had always taken care of it. ~~She was wasting away.~~ ^{Her life was disintegrating.} One day she looked at Peter's old leather chair and sank to her knees, burying her face in its seat. "Dear God," she prayed. "Give me a reason to live or let me die."

--Well, Grandma Ruby found that reason in her work with young girls who'd been molested. ~~Grandma Ruby~~ ^{She} brought sunshine to the lives of others and her own life ^{is} now bright as well. Let me read you part of a letter she recently ~~wrote~~ ^{sent} me. ^{She wrote,} "I have received many letters from girls and women all over the country, thanking me for my work and also asking prayers and help for lives that are still hurting. God has surely blessed me and is giving me much to do in my old age. (I was a late bloomer.)" Well, Ruby may be a late bloomer but she has blossomed into a beautiful rose of love and compassion.

--And so have all of you foster grandparents. ~~It~~ ^{It} means so ~~much~~ ^{form a big} to me that you are here today. I wish ~~we~~ we could ~~have~~ ^{have} a receiving line ^{so} ~~where~~ I could give ~~each one~~ ^{every one} of you a hug. ~~I feel that I know you that well.~~

On any given day, there are now over 18,000 grandparents loving 54,000 children, children who have disabilities on one kind or another, children who've been abused or neglected. Right now as we meet, you can bet there is a foster grandparent somewhere with a loving arm ~~around~~ ^{around} a child who desperately needs that support.

--I am genuinely proud to be ~~associated~~ ^{associated} with this wonderful program and you wonderful people. ←

Even though you may not be mentioned in it, the book, To Love a Child, is about each of you. It is about your ^{open-hearted} love. Thank you for caring so much and thank you again for coming.

(Parvin) ^{YAB}
October 12, 1982
2:30 p.m.

MRS. REAGAN: TO LOVE A CHILD EVENT
OCTOBER 19, 1982

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-- I think that describes ^{Foster Grandparents} ~~it~~ perfectly. And while there are thousands of stories to tell, let me tell you about one of the grandparents in the book, Grandma Ruby. After her husband ^{Peter} died, Ruby was virtually paralyzed with grief. She lost 20 pounds and couldn't face food. She was helpless, not even ^{husband} understanding how a checking account worked because her ~~Peter~~ ^{Peter} had always taken care of it. Her life was disintegrating. One day

she looked at Peter's old leather chair and sank to her knees, burying her face in its seat. "Dear God," she prayed. "Give me a reason to live or let me die."

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Page 3

you. It is about your open-hearted love. Thank you for caring so much and thank you again for coming.