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**Folder Title:** Nancy Reagan: Remarks for the  
Nashville Corporate Salute to Foster Grandparents  
March 16, 1988

**Box:** 438

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REMARKS FOR THE NASHVILLE CORPORATE SALUTE TO FOSTER GRANDPARENTS  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1988

-- THANK YOU. IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY BE HERE IN  
NASHVILLE -- ALTHOUGH I HAVE TO ADMIT, I BROUGHT ALONG MY SNOW  
SHOES JUST IN CASE.

-- I CAME HERE TODAY BECAUSE I WANTED TO JOIN YOU IN  
RECOGNIZING THE WONDERFUL WORK BEING DONE BY THE FOSTER  
GRANDPARENTS OF NASHVILLE. THEY ARE A CARING, DEDICATED GROUP OF  
PEOPLE WHO DESERVE MORE APPLAUSE THAN WE COULD EVER GIVE. MY  
HEARTFELT THANKS GOES TO EACH OF THEM FOR THEIR SELFLESS

DEDICATION TO OUR CHILDREN.

-- I THINK THEY WOULD AGREE WITH WHAT DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER  
ONCE SAID, "ONE THING I KNOW: THE ONLY ONES AMONG YOU WHO WILL BE  
HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO WILL HAVE SOUGHT AND FOUND HOW TO SERVE." I  
THINK THAT EACH OF THEM HAS LEARNED HOW TO DO JUST THAT. THEY SERVE  
BY GIVING OF THEMSELVES. JUST THE OTHER DAY, IN FACT, I CALLED  
FOSTER GRANDPARENT ANNIE COOK OF OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI TO WISH HER A  
HAPPY 102ND BIRTHDAY, AND SHE SAID TO ME, "YOU KNOW, M'AM, YOU GOTTA  
GIVE TO GET."

-- LAST OCTOBER, I BEGAN AN EFFORT TO BRING TOGETHER DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILDREN WITH FOSTER GRANDPARENTS. THEY ARE TWO VERY DIFFERENT GENERATIONS, BUT THERE'S A SPECIAL CHEMISTRY BETWEEN THE YOUNG AND THE OLD -- EACH GIVES TO THE OTHER WHAT THE OTHER NEEDS.

-- THIS MORNING WHEN I WAS AT THE WARNER SCHOOL, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A GROUP OF FOSTER GRANDPARENTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AT RISK FROM DRUGS. MANY OF THE CHILDREN NEED AFFECTION OR A SHOULDER TO CRY ON. SOME SIMPLY NEED TO TALK.

-- DEALING WITH THE PRESSURES OF DRUGS IS HARD ENOUGH, BUT TALKING TO A GRANDPARENT CAN SOMETIMES MAKE DECISIONS A LITTLE EASIER. SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO A GRANDPARENT RATHER THAN A PARENT.

-- THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT ALSO PROFITS FROM THE EXPERIENCE, GAINING THE SATISFACTION THAT HE OR SHE IS HELPING TO SHAPE AND REDIRECT A YOUNG LIFE. BEST OF ALL, THE LOVE AND ATTENTION SHOWERED ON THE FOSTER GRANDCHILD IS EAGERLY AND READILY RETURNED.

-- THOSE STRUGGLING WITH DRUGS MAY BE HARDER TO REACH;  
THEY MAY NOT KNOW HOW TO LOVE AT FIRST. BUT THERE IS A HEART  
STRUGGLING TO BURST OUT IN EACH OF THEM, JUST ACHING TO LOVE  
SOMEONE. TODAY AT THE WARNER SCHOOL, I WATCHED A GROUP OF FOSTER  
GRANDPARENTS PATIENTLY WORK AT BREAKING DOWN THIS WALL. IT'S A  
COMFORT FOR ME -- AND IT SHOULD BE A COMFORT TO NASHVILLE --  
KNOWING THAT THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS OF NASHVILLE ARE TAKING  
ACTION TO SAVE THIS COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN.

-- FINALLY, I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NASHVILLE CORPORATE COMMUNITY WHO ARE HERE TODAY. BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE FINE WORK OF THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS, YOU ARE SHOWING THAT YOU ALSO CARE ABOUT OUR CHILDREN. I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH HOW NECESSARY YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM -- AND THE PRECIOUS FUTURE OF NASHVILLE'S CHILDREN.

-- THANK YOU ALL FOR TAKING THE TIME TO CARE, AND FOR BEING A PART OF SOMETHING SO NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART.

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