

Make Life “Grand”

Published in the Winter 2020 PNA Review

Remember how Nana’s scrambled eggs somehow always tasted better than anyone else’s and how Grandpa had an endless supply of fishing stories? What about all those weekends spent mowing your Gramma’s yard, or taking down all your Grandparents’ holiday decorations?

Fast forward to now: Are you a parent looking for opportunities to help your children create these kinds of memories and relationships? Maybe you want your kids to learn how to care for and communicate with others outside your own home? Perhaps you might like to play the grandparent this time around and share your delicious homemade chocolate chip cookies or your stories of backpacking the Alps with an audience that asks lots of questions?

The Phinney Neighborhood Association is thrilled to launch a new community-building program inspired by memories with our Grandparents, and looking ahead toward creating memories with our Grandchildren – Adopt-a-Grand! In a city full of transplants, Adopt-a-Grand is designed to provide an opportunity for elders and families with children to create meaningful one-on-one connections. This program will help children better understand the aging process while developing a sense of social responsibility and community awareness.

Participating families are paired with a local senior through the PNA Village, and commit to meet once a month for at least a year. The adopted Grands decide when to get together and which chores and activities they’d like to do together – ranging from small household tasks like changing smoke detector batteries, raking leaves or taking a small load to donate, to a more social activity like reading a book, swapping favorite cookie recipes or taking a walk together.

The program is designed to be very flexible, with Grand-Dates lasting anywhere from 30 minutes to a few hours, can accommodate as many children as the Grands are willing, and allow for age-appropriate activities. The PNA provides a list of chores and activities as inspiration, and will occasionally send out other seasonal suggestions.

Ready to start making memories and adopt a Grand? Families must have at least one adult (18+) submit a volunteer application, background check and attend a training (list of upcoming dates below) to become vetted. Other adults and children may accompany the vetted adult, as allowed by the adopted Grand and activity. Elders looking to adopt a family should contact the Village office to learn about joining the Village.

Let’s make some amazing scrambled eggs together!

Phinneycenter.org/volunteer/adoptagrاند | village@phinneycenter.org | 206.789.1217

Volunteer trainings occur monthly at the Greenwood Senior Center from 10 am to noon. Reserve your spot now! Upcoming dates include: Wed, 12/11/19; Sat, 1/25/20; Thurs, 2/20/20; Sat, 3/21/20



The mission of the PNA is to build community by providing and promoting programs, services, & activities aimed at connecting neighbors and fostering civic involvement in our diverse community.