



**DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**
2 LAFAYETTE STREET
New York, New York 10007-1392

Edwin Méndez-Santiago, LCSW
Commissioner

MEDIA CONTACT:
Christopher Miller
Mira Browne
(212) 442-1111
cmiller@aging.nyc.gov

#19P

—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department for the Aging Unveils Grandparent Photo Gallery in Recognition of Grandparents Day Celebration

Gallery honors the estimated 100,000 NYC grandparents raising their grandchildren

New York, NY - September 10, 2008 – Commissioner Edwin Méndez-Santiago today unveiled the Grandparent Resource Center’s Grandparent Photo Gallery in honor of National Grandparents Day, held this past Sunday, September 7th. The 20 portraits of grandparents and their families, who are members of DFTA’s Grandparent Resource Center (GRC), honor the estimated 100,000 grandparents who are raising their grandchildren across the City. The striking black and white photos capture the special bond between grandparent caregivers and their grandchildren. At the breakfast each grandparent received a copy of their portrait. The portraits will be permanently displayed along the walls of DFTA’s Bureau of Long-Term Care and Active Aging at 2 Lafayette Street. The Commissioner was joined by the grandparents and grandchildren in the portraits.

“These photographs of grandparent caregivers represent and honor the thousands of the grandparents raising grandchildren across this City,” said Commissioner Méndez-Santiago. “The black and white portraits tell us a story about the present and the future. They capture the spirit and strength of grandparent caregivers that will forever be recognized and on display at the New York City Department for the Aging’s Grandparent Resource Center.”

The Department for the Aging estimates that there are over 100,000 grandparents raising grandchildren in the City today. The Grandparent Resource Center—the first of its kind in the nation—was established in 1994 in response to the growing trend of grandparents raising their grandchildren. The GRC provides a number of supportive services that include information and referral, recreational activities, educational workshops, advocacy, and case assistance to people who are raising grandchildren and other young relatives and need services to help them with this new role. The Center sponsors a network for grandparent support group facilitators to exchange ideas, collaborate on events, and receive specialized training.

National Grandparents Day was created in 1978 to honor grandparents and is celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

The portraits were taken by professional photographer and freelancer Willie Davis and are available for media purposes in low and high resolution.

###

Contact: Christopher Miller/Mira Browne (212) 442-1111

Visit us at www.nyc.gov/aging