

AWARDEE:
Lydia Cole
Oneida County



Lydia Cole was born in New York City. She has resided in many areas of the state with her kids and grandkids. Cole currently lives in Utica, NY with her daughter.

Cole spent many years working in child protective services and now enjoys supporting children daily in a universal pre-K class through the foster grandparent program.

Cole is over 80 years old and walks two blocks to the program every day. She plays with the children and helps them with activities. She reads to them and sings with them. The children call her grandma.

She believes that volunteering in the community – and especially with children – is a reason for her longevity in life and that “doing good brings good to you,” she says.



Kathy Hochul, Governor
Greg Olsen, Director