



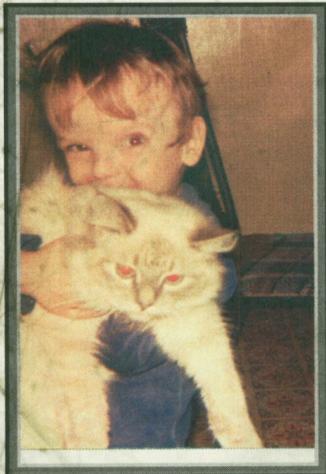
Grandma Betty & Andy 1988



Grandma Betty & Andy 2004



Dad & Mom



Andy & Kitty

Elizabeth Pertgen, known as Betty, has been a Foster Grandparent & then a Senior Companion for a total of 24 years. She began working with Andrew Carter in 1988 when she was 65 years old and Andrew was only 5 years old. When Andrew became an adult, Betty became a Senior Companion and continued to volunteer with him.. She continues to spend time with Andy today, five days a week at Andy's home.. Andy's dad & mom share some of their feelings below:

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Betty is more than just there for Andy, she is like his real grandmother. The services are great! It gives Andy somebody to be with besides just staff. While visiting Andy at the DDO, we would see Betty and she would fade away. I wish she'd have stayed; she is part of the family. She is the greatest I've ever seen up there (at the DDO). It is really great that she is there and talks with him and sits with him when we (the family) can't be there. Betty is part of the family. When Betty transferred over from being a Foster Grandparent to being a Senior Companion, I didn't notice any break in service and was in favor of the transition. I definitely would like for Andy to continue spending time with Betty; like I said, "she is part of the family. I feel like she knows our son better than we do". She is with him day in and day out. If anyone is considering having a Senior Companion for their family member, "Don't hesitate! Do It!" It would be the best for your family. "They are there when you can't be"!

*Story from James Carter, Andy's Dad  
Speaking for Himself & His Wife Lucy*