

**A Tribute to Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren**  
**Thank You<sup>©</sup>**

We gather here to celebrate you for all you've done  
For caring for your granddaughter and your grandson  
You took on this awesome task that no one else could do,  
Because no one loves and cares for your grandchild quite like you.

You had the courage to start all over again  
Raising your grandchildren at an age when  
You thought you might retire, travel and rest  
But the children needed caregivers, and they needed the best.

Some came to you in pampers and most in tears  
Needing nurturing and someone who cares.  
Others came as toddlers, exploring the world on the run  
You couldn't believe this happened – after you thought that you were done.

Still others came at school age, when they needed guidance and direction  
Science may have you baffled but you are great at giving affection.  
And some of you have teenagers, oh my, what can I say.  
Just keep reminding yourself that they won't stay this way.

We know it has not been easy – often quite a heavy load  
And there have been many bumps along the road  
You've been misunderstood, labeled and denied the services you need  
Often criticized and not recognized for your labor or your good deed.

But we are here to honor you who have done so much  
To change the lives of children with your special touch  
We thank you grandparents: we thank you once, we thank you twice  
And know you are appreciated for the rest of your life.

Thank you, grandparents.

Rolanda Pyle

*This poem is from the recently released collection of poems, **FINALLY**, by Department for the Aging Grandparent Resource Center Director Rolanda Pyle.*