



CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS

NICK KELSH

WITH PHOTOS FROM FANS OF HOWTOPHOTOGRAPHYOURLIFE.COM AND FOREVER.COM

FOREWORD



My son, Alexander, had the rare opportunity to be photographed with both sets of grandparents before my dad passed away. I treasure this memory.

Modern photography has forever changed the relationship we have with our beloved grandparents and great grandparents.

I met one of my grandfathers only a couple of times and whether or not the image I have of him in my mind is a memory or a mirage is totally up for debate—I say memory, my mother says mirage. At the very least, there are no photographs of me with him—he died when I was three. Cameras among my poor farmer ancestors were almost objects of luxury. They were a hard-working, non-photographic people. The photograph in my mind's eye will live only there.

Now, 21st-century grandchildren have access to not just photographs of their precious elders, but spectacular photographs taken by them. The camera allows grandparents and their descendants to stay in touch in a way people couldn't even imagine just a couple of decades ago. The invention of photography continues to give and will only get better.

So today we celebrate our grandparents through photography. Photographing an eighty-year-old with the eight-year-old of their dreams is an act of love. The camera can capture it all; the quiet moments, the affectionate look in someone's eyes, the hands—old and young—preparing green beans for Thanksgiving dinner.

Stay in focus,

Nick Krush

This book produced by:

www.HowToPhotographYourLife.com

with the kind sponsorship of:

FOREVER[®]



Celebrate Grandparents
because they know what true love is



Kate Wilcox

"Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads, which sew people together through the years".
— Simone Signoret



McKenna Hight

The older we get the more humble we become.

It takes a while to sort the precious from the distractions—often decades. The goals and needs of the 20-year-old fade into the wallpaper as life lesson after life lesson hammers home what's really important.

Grandparents get it. They've watched the mistakes of their friends, families, and neighbors and are painfully aware of their own too frequent missteps.

But they have time left and it is time that money and wishing cannot buy. Time is really all they can give to their children and the children of their children.

It doesn't take much to lay a solid foundation of a loving legacy that can be passed on for generations.



There are so many ways to say I love you with a camera. Including an old photograph into a present-day situation like Beth Thomander did so beautifully, above, is just one of them.

People rarely think of a camera as a tool for making a simple statement. I love you. I miss you. I wish you were here. They are all things that can be said with a lens and a light box.



Celebrate Grandparents

because they give hugs and kisses in abundance



Gina Aderholdt



Peg Cain

"A grandma is warm hugs and sweet memories. She remembers all of your accomplishments and forgets all of your mistakes."

— Barbara Cage



Nicole Brown



Nancy Hevenor

The relationship between grandparents and grandchildren is primal.

My own young boys amaze me with the endless stream of hugs and kisses they have reserved for their elders. You can feel the energy force generated by a grandmother's hug or a grandfather's kiss. It's tangible; everyone in the room can sense it.

The span of decades is immediately bridged with a simple peck on the cheek and an I love you.

A grandparents hug is in a class by itself. Ask any three-year-old.



Peggy Hogsett



Megan McFall



It's not always easy to see both faces when two people are hugging.

Don't worry about it; just push the button.

The tilt of the back of someone's head as they're being embraced can say as much as the joy in the eyes of the person facing the camera.



Celebrate Grandparents
because they know how to just hang out



"Because (grandparents) are usually free to love and guide and befriend the young without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out past pride and fear of failure and close the space between generations."

— Jimmy Carter



both Abbie Winter



Cheryl Pierson

A grandparent's love doesn't have to be loud or flashy.

It's the quiet, simple little moments that bind the generations together.

It's a game of cards or a tickle on the back or a cuddle and a nap together in the middle of the afternoon.

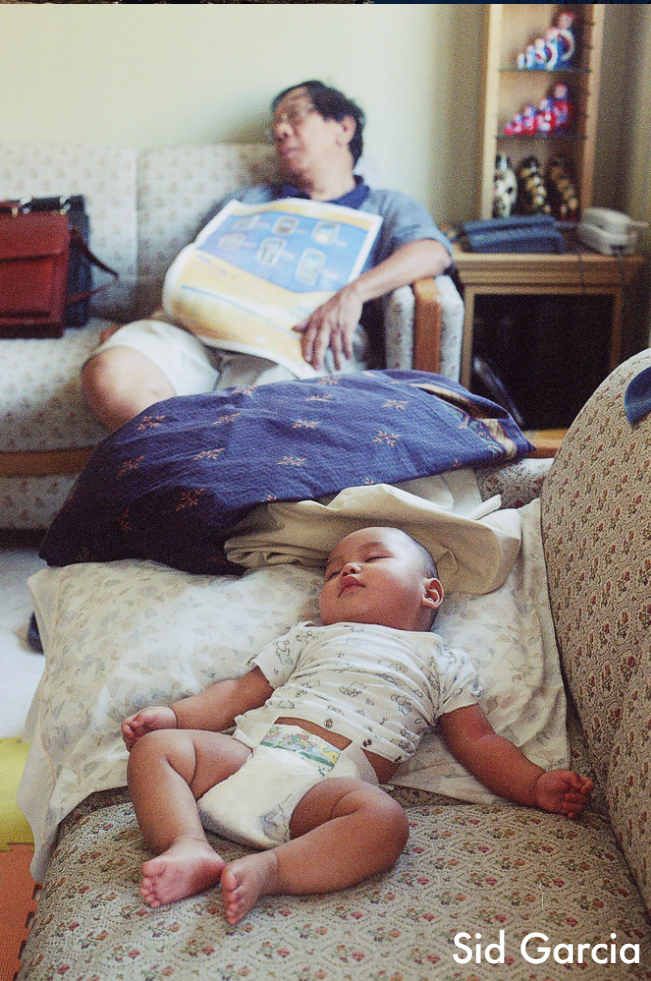
Oftentimes, words aren't even required. It's a glance with a smile across a crowded room.



Cindy Ringer



Renee Worthing



Sid Garcia



Have your camera ready to go when the important little moments of life happen.

It sounds ridiculous but it all boils down to the basics. Know how to turn your camera on. Are you on automatic or manual exposure? (If you don't know what manual exposure is, you should probably be on automatic.)

The point is this: know how to pick up your camera, turn it on and quickly take a picture. A little bit of practice will go a long way.

Just about everyone who ever learns how to use a camera comes to the conclusion that it just wasn't as bad as they thought it was going to be. If you do it often – and wonderful moments happen often – it can be almost second nature.



Celebrate Grandparents

because they pass on their skills and wisdom



Aimee Morr



Marcia Richardson

"Everyone needs to have access both to grandparents and grandchildren in order to be a full human being."

— Margaret Mead



Alayna Caldwell



Beth Thomander



Lynn Christianson



Jeanne James

All you have to be is older and you immediately qualify as someone with enough knowledge and wisdom to last a lifetime.

Experience is the wisest and cruelest of teachers. How to hold a nail and hit it with a hammer isn't knowledge that we're born with. How to perform that simple little act is a gift when you give it to someone about to do it for the first time. The secrets of a perfect pie crust can be relearned and shared by every generation.

Why it's a good idea to kiss and make up after a fight is perhaps life's greatest lesson.

Grandparents know that and are ready to teach it.



Crystal Raynard



Danielle Dureault



Kerri Zollers



Karin Warner



One of the finest times to photograph anyone is when they are preoccupied doing something they love.

Whatever it is that the grandparent in your life loves is a great place to start for that photographic masterpiece. Put a grandchild or two in the situation and stand back. It's really not much more complicated than that.

Even people who hate having their picture taken can tolerate a well-intentioned, intrusive photographer when they are holding their favorite fishing rod or fixing the doll house of a granddaughter.



Celebrate Grandparents
because they don't mind being silly



Brenda Simmons



Karin Seder

*"'You're more trouble than the children are' is the greatest compliment a grandparent can receive."
— Gene Perret*



Lee Anne Ankenbrandt



Laura Frick



Tina Burkett



Joey Aldridge-Danuser

Long ago they lost the will to maintain the façade—it just isn't worth it.

It's pure joy for the little ones to watch the grandparents join them in kid world. When the kids see grandpa get down on all fours they know they're in for something special. And it just doesn't get any funnier than to see grandma wearing a bright green Halloween wig.

Grandparents are willing to let their guard down because they know that not taking yourself too seriously will make you happier in the end.



Lindy Warner



Lynette Olszewski



Amii Jones



Hannah Bair



Getting in close on a silly, funny moment and composing it for full impact is an art.

I can't tell you how to take a funny picture, but there are plenty of them to be had when you're around grandparents.

All I can tell you is this: if things start to feel a little wacky or outrageous or someone in the room starts to laugh get ready to push the button. Even if things go wrong—someone spills something, for example—prepare yourself for a photograph.



Celebrate Grandparents
because they are fragile



Carole Nichols

"The history of our grandparents is remembered not with rose petals but in the laughter and tears of their children and their children's children. It is into us that the lives of the grandparents have gone. It is in us that their history becomes a future."

— Charles and Ann Morse



Melissa Venditti



Lori Hull



Roxy Stanyon

A relationship with a weak and elderly grandparent is often the first glimpse we have of our own destiny.

But somehow—regardless of age—we know that they need us and want us and we can be of service. The aches and pains of aging are relieved by the soft touch of a loving child or grandchild. Doctors can testify to the healing power of a grandchild simply being in the room playing in the corner.

Getting out of bed in the morning is just that much easier when you know the little ones are coming over that day.



Debbie Dowling



Becky Smith



Denita Huey



Teresa Smith



Successful photographs of the subtle moments of caring and loving often come down to lighting.

The lighting can't be harsh. It's a wonderful time to turn off your flash. The built-in flash on your camera helps you take pictures in the dark places but it destroys mood ... and an eight-year-old boy offering his grandmother an arm as she walks down the steps has a wonderful mood to it.

Be respectful with your lighting.



Celebrate Grandparents
because they take time to play



Louise Olar



Heather Hooper

"The simplest toy, one which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent."
— Sam Levenson

Previous Page:
Dawn Jackson



Tom Reese



Aimee Morr

Many grandparents have put work behind them.

It no longer dominates the day-to-day or even the year-to-year.

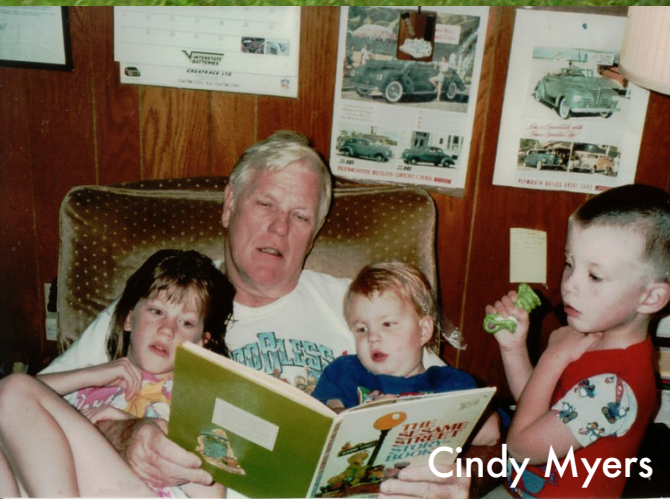
The knees and throwing arm may not be Olympic ready but no one cares. Just the willingness to get out there and hang with the younger, healthier bodies says so much.

Taking the time to spend the afternoon playing Monopoly is therapeutic for everyone.

A game of catch with a grandfather is a game of catch for the ages.



Kerri Zollers



Cindy Myers



You'll be amazed what a 75-year-old body can do.

Sometimes, when you're photographing grandparents, you need to think like a sports photographer. Push the button a lot, use automatic focus, and leave some room around the action so you can crop the picture later. Just because he's a grandfather doesn't mean he can't jump for the shot.

And sometimes the action happens on a small scale. Two imaginations join as they build a Lego castle to ward off the intruders.

Human beings love to play, regardless of their age.



Aimee Mor



Celebrate Grandparents
because they link the generations



A Day at a Time
Photography © Toni Milak

Toni Milak

"Grandchildren are the dots that connect the lines from generation to generation."

— Lois Wyse

Previous Page:
Nikki Wagner



Kathleen Parsons

The best of the grandparents among us share the stories and cement the legacy.

It's practically a responsibility.

They are the foundation upon which all of us have been raised and will stand forever.

It is not without its flaws, however, but it's the only foundation we have and we are all the better for it for deeply sinking our roots into it.



Stacie Herickhoff



Jen Hutzal



A close up of two hands holding each other can symbolize a span of a half a dozen decades.

Photographing generations is often an exercise in storytelling; big hands and little hands picking vegetables says a lot more than dinner will be ready soon.

Look for small details that tell the big picture.



Celebrate Grandparents

because of the way they look at their grandchildren



Sarah Lake



Tricia Pringle

"If your baby is beautiful and perfect, never cries or fusses, sleeps on schedule and burps on demand, an angel all the time, you're the grandma."

— Teresa Bloomingdale



Chelsea Little



Jamie Griffith



Ellen Landreth



Marcy Pivin

Ask any grandparent how it feels to have grandchildren.

Almost invariably their breath is taken away as they struggle to find the words. There aren't any.

Both generations can sense the vulnerability in the other. The elders know there is nothing they can do to protect the younger generation from what we call life. The young ones instinctively know that grandpa or grandma are on the backside of the mountain.

And there's really nothing either side can do for the other but be there with a hug and a kiss and a smile and a phone call and an occasional shared photograph.



Tina McGuire



Terri Viola



It's almost always in the eyes.

Photograph the face of a grandparent as he or she looks into the eyes of a grandchild. The very reason we're alive can be seen—and often photographed—there.

With few exceptions, when you're photographing people and you want to capture emotion you focus on the eyes. The eyes tell it all. Focus on the eyes.



Jodi Birch

www.HowToPhotographYourLife.com

and

FOREVER[®]