

91-Year-Old Sacramento Teacher Honored By L'Oreal


Ora Rakestraw Volunteers In Foster Grandparent Program

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SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- L'Oreal Paris has honored a local woman in its

Women of Worth series -- a foster grandmother who has been helping children to read for more than 30 years.



The cosmetics company named 10 Women of Worth around the country who are inspired and inspiring. They are being honored for seeing a need in their communities and reaching out to meet it.

At Woodridge Elementary School in Sacramento, you'll find Ora

Rakestraw at her desk four days a week, five hours a day.

But even at 91 years old, nobody calls her Mrs. Rakestraw.

"Everybody, Grandma Ora, Grandma Ora. Even the teachers, I'm Grandma Ora all over," Rakestraw said.

Rakestraw is a volunteer in Sacramento County's foster grandparent program. She's been helping children learn to read for more than 30 years.

L'Oreal Paris flew Rakestraw to New York for a big awards bash. She got to celebrate with actress and activist Holly Robinson Peete.

"I think a woman of worth is a person who's doing something to help someone. To make our community and our world a better world," Rakestraw said.

Grandma Ora does that, one child at a time.

"I don't have that much to give, but what little I have, I do try to share," Rakestraw said.

She'll keep giving as long as she is able.

"They are the ones who are going to take over our places when we are gone. They are our world of tomorrow," Rakestraw said.

L'Oreal's Women of Worth will be invited to national volunteer conferences and they'll be part of a national commercial campaign.