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GENERATIONS UNITED RELEASES SHARED SITE FINDINGS AND ANNOUNCES FIRST SHARED SITE BEST PRACTICE AWARD WINNERS

Today Generations United released a groundbreaking report: the results of the first national study of the cost savings of intergenerational shared site programs. Importantly, the study found personnel costs were significantly less in intergenerational shared site care facilities than similar facilities serving a single age group.

“Given that personnel costs often make up more than 30% of a program’s budget, this finding is particularly noteworthy, and is contrary to the belief that intergenerational shared site programs will require additional staff,” said Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United.

Intergenerational shared sites are programs where people of different generations are engaged at the same site and interact through planned activities and informal interactions, such as a senior center with before- and after-school programs, an adult and child day care center, or a multigenerational community center.

Additionally, the study also found that the sites often experienced cost savings in the area of rent. The report concluded that there was cost savings in the intergenerational shared sites that integrated their operational costs, such as personnel and rent, versus those that did not.

The report was released at an event that highlighted the winners of the first Intergenerational Shared Site Best Practice Awards sponsored by MetLife Foundation and Generations United. The purpose of this competition is to recognize and encourage best practices in intergenerational shared sites around the country.

“Generations United is honored to recognize such outstanding work underway in diverse communities around the country. Each of these programs demonstrates a strong commitment to the highest level of intergenerational practice. They are outstanding, living examples of why our society is stronger together,” said Butts.

As MetLife Foundation Health Program Director Barbara Dillon said, “MetLife Foundation is pleased to support this important work. There is a real opportunity to tap into the talent and resources of older adults and connect them with the increasing numbers of young people in our country to make communities livable places for all.”

The following organizations have been selected as the first award winners:

- The JEWEL Program - A Partnership between Mount Kisco Day Care Center and My Second Home

- Mount. Kisco, NY*
Macklin Intergenerational Institute
Findlay, Ohio
- Neighbors Growing Together: Virginia Tech Intergenerational Program
Blacksburg, VA
New Alternatives, Inc. - San Pasqual Academy Neighbors Program
Escondido, CA
 - United Retirement Center/Avera
Brookings, SD

GU is also pleased to recognize the following National Finalists from the competition:

- Grandma's House at Westminster Care
Orlando, FL
- Greene County Educational Service Center
Yellow Springs, OH
- Hesston Intergenerational Child Development Center
Hesston, KS
- St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care
Milwaukee, WI
- Under One Roof, Inc.
Norwalk, CT

Generations United released two reports, one on best practices and one on cost savings. More information on our winners is available in the best practices report and both reports are found at www.gu.org.

Generations United, a membership organization of over 100 national, state, and local organizations representing more than 70 million Americans, works to improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies.