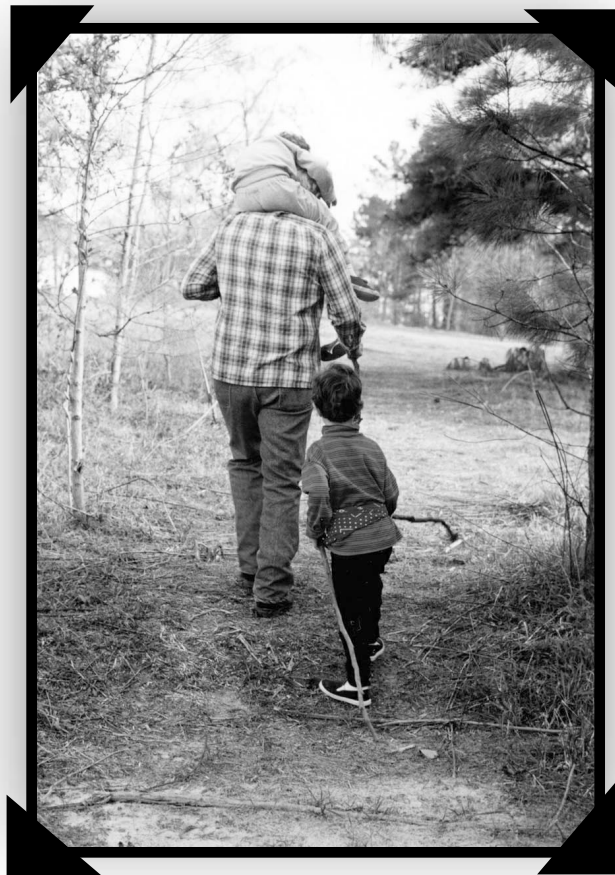


Generations United Annual Report

2003 and 2004

Building a World that values all generations



Cover photo by Ken McGraw from Generations United's 2004 annual Intergenerational Photography Contest sponsored by MetLife Foundation.



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Generations United Annual Report 2003 and 2004

Building a world that values all generations



"Texas Bluebonnets" by Emily Lopez, from Generations United's annual Intergenerational Photography Contest sponsored by MetLife Foundation.

From the Chair & Executive Director

These have been times of growth and accomplishment for Generations United. We experienced unprecedented success during 2003 and 2004. Our ability to provide a focused and reasonable voice has positioned GU as a respected organization with policy makers on Capitol Hill, the media and with other national organizations. GU's outreach efforts have engaged new audiences in this important work. Throughout these two years we focused GU's efforts on priorities such as grandparents raising grandchildren, using resources to connect generations, and infusing intergenerational approaches into new program arenas.

We are pleased to share many of our successes in this annual report. One we were particularly proud to witness was the signing into law of LEGACY – Living Equitably Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth. This marked the first time GU championed public policy from inception to implementation. We believe LEGACY, which was included in the American Dream Down Payment Bill, will propel the need for grandfamilies housing into the public arena and encourage supportive housing for children and their caregivers. Jaia Peterson Lent and Donna Butts attended the bill signing and thanked President Bush for supporting LEGACY.

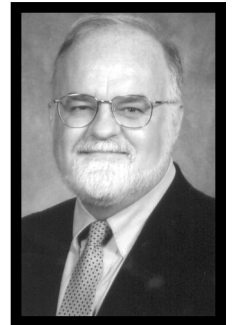
This period will also be known as the year of awards signaling recognition of GU's growing accomplishments. We were honored to receive the 2004 Johnson & Johnson/Rosalynn Carter Caregiver Institute Leadership Award. Mrs. Carter presented GU the award in recognition of our national leadership on behalf of grandparents raising grandchildren. Board members Chuck Gould and Mary Ann Van Clief along with GU member Robin Tilitson joined Donna to accept the prestigious award which also included a \$30,000 grant and GU's first video depicting our work.

Earlier in the year Donna was honored by the National Council on Aging and received their 2004 Jack Ossofsky Award for Leadership, Creativity and Innovation in Programs and Services for Older Persons. It was particularly meaningful given Jack's role as co-founder of GU.

We were pleased to present our own special award to one of our heroes, Janet Sainer. Janet serves as a Special Advisor to the Brookdale Foundation Group. She is a visionary who has a long list of accomplishments on behalf of seniors and intergenerational advocacy in New York. Most recently she's worked tirelessly to bring relatives raising children into the national limelight.

Our 2003 conference attracted intergenerational advocates from around the world. One notable highlight was the U.S. Census Bureau releasing their first report on grandparents and other relatives raising children. This brought wide media attention including a story on National Public Radio.

As part of the conference events, we organized the first national GrandRally on Capitol Hill. We worked with a solid partnership of national organizations dedicated to working on behalf of these important families-AARP, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and the National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights. These groups brought hundreds of caregivers and children to the



John Rother,
Chair



Donna Butts,
Executive
Director

GrandRally at the front of the Capitol. Policy makers heard this powerful voice and key elected officials committed their support to policies that would help children and their relative caregivers.

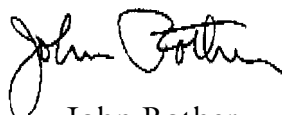
The conference also marked the beginning of our work with the Environmental Protection Agency to promote intergenerational environmental health programs. We began with a preconference intensive to help people think about how to implement programs in their communities. Whether educating, documenting or monitoring, young and old share a strong concern for the health of their communities and the world around them. This work led to the creation of a new GU publication, *Generations United for Environmental Awareness*, which was downloaded from our website by hundreds of people the day it was released.

GU continues to promote intergenerational strategies and programs beyond U.S. borders. We contribute to the development of the International Consortium of Intergenerational Programmes, which is housed in the United Kingdom and incorporated in the Netherlands. This fledgling organization is making great strides connecting intergenerational efforts to increase social inclusion and human capital in countries as diverse as Botswana, Germany, India, and Spain.

At the same time intergenerational program work in the U.S.A. continues to evolve. Initially, intergenerational programs were designed to simply connect the generations. This approach has now evolved to emphasize programs that contribute to community solutions. In doing so, these programs have demonstrated the important role older and younger can and should play in civic life. The future direction of intergenerational practice will center on increasing community-wide engagement, which incorporates individual programs, shared sites, intergenerational families and leads to fuller engagement of a community's most important asset – citizens of all ages.

During the close of our conference actor Sean Astin spoke of his support for intergenerational strategies that value all ages. It's fitting that in his role as hobbit Samwise Gamgee in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy he encourages his friend, the ring bearer Frodo, to keep going even when it seemed hopeless. He said people only succeed because when given a chance to turn back, they keep going. Why Frodo asked? Because they are holding on to something...the belief that there is good in this world.

Intergenerational approaches not only make sense for people, but they have proven to be good for our neighborhoods, our country, and our world. We thank you for your ongoing support to this cause.



John Rother
Board Chair



Donna Butts
Executive Director

A Catalyst

Generations United (GU) continues to increase its impact as a catalyst for the collaboration of aging, youth, and children's organizations seeking a mutually supportive intergenerational agenda. By December 2004, GU had over 400 individual and organizational members representing more than 70 million Americans.

GU was founded as a coalition in 1986 by the National Council on the Aging, Child Welfare League of America, AARP, and Children's Defense Fund to promote intergenerational strategies, public policies, and programs. Almost ten years later, in 1997, GU became an independent organization with 100 national organizational members.

Since its founding, GU remains the only national membership organization working for the well-being of children, youth, and older adults. GU serves as a resource for educating policymakers and the public about the economic, social, and personal imperatives of intergenerational cooperation. By providing a forum for those working with children, youth, and older adults, GU explores areas of common ground while celebrating the richness of each generation.

OUR VISION:

A world that values and engages all generations.

OUR MISSION:

To improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit of all.

OUR CORE BELIEFS:

Generations United is the catalyst that brings single-age focused groups together to build and support a common agenda while providing a unique voice in public debate. Generations United honors all ages, supports all ages, and engages all ages. Further we believe:

- Intergenerational collaboration will unite and improve our communities.
- Intergenerational approaches have a positive relationship to economic growth and value creation.
- Public policies should meet the needs of all generations.
- Resources are more wisely used when they connect the generations rather than separate them.
- Discrimination, in any form, limits a person's potential to contribute to the development of his or her community.
- Grandparents and other adults who step forward to raise children are providing an economic service to families and our country.

OUR ROLE:

To act as a catalyst that fosters innovation in programs and policies that grow and lead the intergenerational field.



**"We formed
Generations
United to argue
for a caring
society"**

-Jack Ossofsky

Public Policy

"More than six million children are being raised in grandparent- or other relative-headed households. Through passing the American Dream Downpayment Bill, we are achieving a great victory. I am pleased that we were able to pass this legislation to develop housing specifically for these families."

-Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH)

GU Annual Report
2003-2004

Intergenerational Approach To Public Policy

GU brings single-aged focused groups together to promote a common agenda on behalf of all generations. GU recognizes that the generations share basic needs. People, regardless of their age, need adequate income, access to quality health care and social services, educational and employment opportunities, and a safe place to live. Effective public policies must recognize these similar needs and the fact that the generations are interdependent. Accordingly, resources should be allocated wisely to connect generations rather than separate them.

With these principles in mind, GU uses an intergenerational approach to framing public policies that affect children, youth, and older adults. The approach involves examining the impact of such policies across the entire life span. For example, all generations are served by improving schools. Better schools result in a more capable and productive workforce, one that is better able to support those who are not working due to disability, retirement or young age.

Public Policy Committee

More than a dozen public policy directors and other leaders from prominent national children's and aging organizations serve on GU's public policy committee. The committee meets monthly to identify GU's public policy priorities, draft its Public Policy Agenda for each Congress, and work together to achieve the goals in that Agenda. During 2003, long-time GU board member and public policy committee co-chair Patrick Gaston was promoted to President of Verizon Foundation and was no longer able to serve as co-chair and GU board member. The public policy committee continues to benefit from the wisdom and work of its other long-term co-chairs, Howard Bedlin, Vice President for Public Policy, National Council on the Aging, and Gregg Haifley, Deputy Director, Health Division, Children's Defense Fund. Paul Thornell, Vice President of Public Policy and Partners, United Way of America, also joined as a co-chair of the committee and GU board member.



Sen. Mike DeWine (R-OH) accepting the prestigious GU Jack Ossosky Award.

Public Policy Agenda

In 2003, Committee members worked together to write *A Public Policy Agenda* for the 108th Congress, which served as a blueprint for GU's public policy work during these two years.

GU's public policy committee focused on four priority legislative areas:

- Housing for grandparents and other relatives raising children
- Reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service
- Restored funding for the Social Services Block Grant
- Protecting Medicaid

For each of these areas, the public policy committee collaborated to delineate specific legislative action items, provide its position statement, and background information. After compiling the Agenda, the committee disseminated the Agenda to each Member of the House of Representatives along with a bipartisan cover letter from the co-chairs of the House Older Americans and Children's Caucuses. Members of the Senate received their copy of the Public Policy Agenda with a cover letter from the bipartisan co-sponsors of the LEGACY bill. GU's public policy committee members worked to promote the Agenda's legislative priorities through visits with Members of Congress to explain the importance of these intergenerational imperatives, and through many other joint educational efforts, some of which are described below.

LEGACY

GU enjoyed a major legislative success in 2003 when the first piece of federal housing legislation to help create affordable housing opportunities for grandparents and other relatives raising children passed the Congress. GU staff and public policy

committee members worked with key bipartisan legislators from the inception to help draft the language and introduce LEGACY — Living Equitably: Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth – in both the 107th and 108th Congress. LEGACY grew out of the housing needs vividly depicted in the Academy Award nominated documentary of the same name.



Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) accepts a brick from GU in honor of "laying the foundation for grandfamilies housing."

Three provisions of LEGACY passed the 108th Congress as part of the American Dream Downpayment Act. LEGACY calls for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to:

- Develop and distribute grants for demonstration projects to create housing for grandparents and other relatives raising children.
- Provide training to housing officials on issues facing relatives raising children.
- Work with the U.S. Bureau of the Census to conduct a national study of the housing needs of grandparents and other relatives raising children and make recommendations based on the study.

Together with lawmakers, advocates, and grandparents and other relatives raising children, GU celebrated the passage of LEGACY at a Capitol Hill program and reception. The program included presentations from key HUD officials and program administrators about plans for implementation. GU honored lead LEGACY sponsors, including Representatives Michael Capuano (D-MA) and Jack Quinn (R-NY), and Senators Mike DeWine (R-OH), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) with awards for their leadership in laying the foundation for intergenerational housing.

Although LEGACY has yet to be implemented by HUD, its passage is a significant first step to helping grandparents and other relatives and the children they raise with their housing needs. GU staff and public policy committee members will continue to educate HUD about the importance of implementing the bill.

GrandRally and Hill Day

Among the work necessary to ensure passage of the LEGACY bill, GU collaborated with four other national organizations — Children's Defense Fund (CDF), AARP, Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), and the National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights — to organize the first GrandRally on Capitol Hill as part of GU's biennial Hill Day. The 2003 GrandRally was a huge success with more than 850 grandparent and other relative caregivers and their supporters from 28 states coming to tell federal lawmakers about the challenges they face and how to help them. The caregivers spoke of the need for affordable housing, and the usefulness of the LEGACY bill. Two months later, LEGACY became law.



Marion Wright Edelman, Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund, and Nickole Collins-Pierre at the first GrandRally and GU's 2003 biennial Hill Day. Ms. Collins-Pierre's family story is told in the documentary Legacy, which later became the inspiration for the legislation of the same name.

As part of Hill Day, GU held a forum during which participants were told first-hand about the legislative process from Washington insiders and legislators including GU board member Bob Blancato and Representative Ralph Regula (R-OH). After the forum, Hill Day participants from all over the country visited their Members of Congress to promote the importance of intergenerational public policies and programs.

GU's Hill Day concluded with a reception, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, honoring the LEGACY bill. GU was pleased to have Nickole Collins Pierre speak at the GrandRally and attend the LEGACY reception. Ms. Collins Pierre narrated the LEGACY film, which followed five years of her family's life, including their struggle to leave public housing.

State GrandRallies

Following the success of the first national GrandRally, GU again joined with its four national partners to provide support and resources to state groups to encourage them to hold GrandRallies at their capitols. Seven states — Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, and West Virginia — held GrandRallies in 2004. The national and state GrandRallies educated legislators around the country, in addition to bringing further media and public attention to the issues facing the families.

Corporation for National and Community Service

GU successfully worked with a coalition of organizations to educate Congress and the public about the intergenerational benefits of AmeriCorps — one of the programs operated through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) — after it suffered major budget cuts in 2003. As a result of these efforts, funding was restored to the program in 2004.

GU also continued to work with others to educate Congress about the importance of reauthorizing CNCS, including operating a free listserv that provided periodic updates on reauthorization of the CNCS and AmeriCorps funding.

GU staff responded to a request from CNCS for comments on proposed revisions to Senior Corps — another valuable CNCS program — to help expand the number of volunteers. Donna M. Butts, GU's Executive Director, also met with the CEO of CNCS to discuss the important role of national partners and the value of opportunities for innovative demonstration programs.

Medicaid

GU developed a Medicaid advisory group within its public policy committee to guide GU's work to oppose caps to this vital intergenerational program. The advisory group held joint meetings with the members of the House Medicaid Task Force to express concern about proposed cuts and efforts to block grant the program, and had an ongoing dialogue with the head of the Task Force. GU sent letters to members of the Senate Budget Committee and the entire Senate opposing proposed cuts, in addition to reaching all the governors urging them to oppose block grants to the program. GU continues to partner with established Medicaid advocate coalitions, and educate Congress about the importance of this program.

Kinship Caregiver Support Act

GU worked with Senator Clinton's office, in partnership with CDE, CWLA, AARP, and the National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights, to develop the Kinship Care Support Act. In July 2004, Senators Clinton, Tom Daschle (D-SD), and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) introduced it in the Senate.

The Act would:

- *Establish a Kinship Navigator Program:* Federal grants would be provided to states or large metropolitan areas to establish hotlines/helpdesks to provide coordinated information and assistance to caregivers about local resources available to them, such as family support services, child care, legal services, Medicaid, respite care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and support groups.
- *Establish a Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program:* Federal guardianship assistance would be available for children who leave foster care to live with a safe, legal guardian when adoption or reunification with parents is not a viable permanency option.
- *Ensure that Relatives are Notified when Children Enter Foster Care.*

Although the legislation did not pass the 108th Congress, GU and other partners will work to have it reintroduced in the 109th Congress.

"Notifying grandparents and other relatives when children enter the foster care system will make it easier for families to stay together."

—Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)

Other Public Policy Accomplishments

- GU developed a coordinated system of grassroots contacts in many states to share information about intergenerational public policies, such as Medicaid and other issues impacting grandparents and other relatives raising children.
- GU continued to work with a coalition of organizations seeking to restore funding to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). Through the work of the coalition, legislation was reintroduced to restore SSBG funding to \$2.8 billion.
- GU partnered with a coalition of groups to educate Congress about the need for the creation of a coordinated system of respite services for people of all ages. The Lifespan Respite Care Act, which provides such a system of care was included in the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004, but was not signed into law. GU will continue to work with the coalition to educate Congress on this issue.
- GU identified common ground on reauthorization issues for the Older Americans Act, particularly the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). GU staff met with key Congressional staff to educate them on issues related to the NFCSP's current limitations on providing services to grandparents and other relatives raising children who are under age 60.
- At the invitation of the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, GU staff provided written recommendations and met with Commission staff to assist them in their charge to improve outcomes for children in the foster care system. GU's recommendations focused on supporting grandparents and other relatives raising children and engaging older adults as resources to grandfamilies and families at risk of abuse and neglect.
- Donna Butts was the first to testify at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Administration on Aging's listening session on the NFCSP during the American Society on Aging (ASA)/National Council on Aging (NCOA) joint conference in March 2003. GU submitted written testimony and Donna spoke about the importance of services for grandparent and other relative caregivers.
- In response to a request from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), GU staff testified at an EPA listening session that focused on priorities for research and education to address environmental hazards that threaten the health of older persons. Donna Butts testified about the importance of intergenerational strategies in addressing environmental issues and identified the need for demonstration opportunities, training and technical assistance, and information about model programs.
- GU staff met with domestic policy staff at the White House to discuss intergenerational strategies in new and proposed programs. Relatives raising children and policies and programs that could help support them, such as LEGACY and state kinship navigator programs, were also discussed. GU staff continued to promote the idea of ongoing interagency meetings to coordinate federal government work to help the families.

Intergenerational Programs

“We are eternally grateful to Generations United. We could not continue our intergenerational efforts with out them.”

—Robin Tillotson, Southeast Regional Director, Chicago Department on Aging and a GU Member Since 1998

Intergenerational Teacher Mentor Program

The National Education Association (NEA) awarded a grant to GU and Temple University’s Center for Intergenerational Learning to develop an intergenerational teacher mentor program, and in 2004 further committed to funding it for at least the next two years. GU and Temple provided technical assistance and trainings to engage retired teachers to serve as mentors to new teachers. In 2003 and 2004, GU and Temple conducted pre-conference trainings at four NEA-Retired’s annual regional meetings, and trained volunteers from 15 states.

One of the first teams trained came from Nebraska. After their training in Reno, Nevada, students, retirees, and staff from the Nebraska State Education Association were eager to start an intergenerational mentoring program and left with a concrete plan for getting started. In 2004, they began in Omaha, Nebraska with eleven mentor pairs. Based on their success, the project plans to expand to Kearney, Nebraska in 2005.

GU’s Online Resource Center

GU was thrilled to receive funding from the Verizon Foundation to connect and encourage intergenerational programs and strategies through technology and technical assistance. In September 2004, GU launched the project with a simple ten

question survey to members and collaborating partners asking what types of online resources would be most helpful to them. Respondents were very interested in more online chats and participating in an “Intergenerational Ideas” section of the website where they could post ideas and questions and receive email responses from experts. GU will be implementing these suggestions during the course of the three year project.

GU’s 12th International Conference

During October 2003, GU held its largest conference to date with over 300 people in attendance. The conference had a strong international presence with representatives from ten different countries.

The following are just some of the highlights of the conference:

- Well-attended pre-conference intensives on (1) intergenerational programs and (2) grandparents and other relatives raising children. GU was honored to have the U.S. Census Bureau release its new report on grandparent caregivers at the grandfamilies pre-conference intensive.
- An informative half-day fundraising workshop, led by GU Board Member Michael Marcus, provided attendees with a slew of ideas on how to expand resources for their programs.

“People only succeed because when given a chance to turn back, they keep going. Why Frodo asked? Because they are holding on to something . . . the belief that there is good in this world.”

— Sean Astin, Actor/Director/Producer quoting from his role as Hobbitt Samwise Gamgee in the Lord of the Rings Trilogy during GU’s 12th International Conference Closing Plenary Session

2003 International Conference closing plenary speaker Sean Astin with GU board members Robert Dugger of Tudor Investment Corporation, Patrick Gaston of Verizon Communications, John Rother of AARP, and MaryLee Allen of Children’s Defense Fund.



- GU’s Annual Awards Dinner, where attendees were wowed by the Generations of Joy Choir and the seven amazing award recipients.
- A special networking luncheon honoring Janet Sainer, Special Consultant with The Brookdale Foundation Group.
- The Opening Plenary Session entitled Intergenerational Programmes and Policies: International Perspectives on Essential Strategies with experts from the international intergenerational movement: Narender Chadha, India; Jumbo Klercq, the Netherlands; Akpovire Oduaran, Botswana; and Alan Hatton-Yeo, United Kingdom. Edwin Walker, from DHHS’ Administration on Aging provided the U.S. perspective and GU Board Member Shay Bilchik moderated this lively panel.
- The David Liederman Closing Plenary Session featuring Sean Astin, actor, director, producer, and member of The President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation. He starred as the Hobbitt Samwise Gamgee in the *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien’s immensely popular books. Sean offered his

perspective on the value of intergenerational relationships and volunteerism.

- The 50+ outstanding workshops and roundtable sessions with over 100 presenters from the U.S. and abroad.

EPA Symposium

The EPA funded GU to coordinate a one-day symposium on intergenerational environmental health prior to GU’s conference in 2003. This symposium was the first of its kind and brought together over 25 people interested in learning more about the possible and real intersections of intergenerational and environmental work.

As a result of the symposium, the EPA also funded a new guidebook entitled *Generations United for Environmental Awareness and Action*, which provides guidance on intergenerational environmental programs. This GU publication, released in August 2004, was written by Matt Kaplan and Nike Liu from Penn State University. Staff from the EPA’s Children’s Health and Aging Initiatives continues to be very supportive of building the knowledge base about environmental intergenerational programs.

Intergenerational Photography Contests

Building on the success of its earlier contests, GU received two additional grants from the MetLife Foundation to fund its 3rd and 4th Annual Intergenerational Photography Contests. The success of the contests continued to grow, with the 4th Contest receiving 128 entries from younger and older amateur photographers around the globe. In 2004, using photographs from all four contests, GU published a full-color twelve month calendar. The calendar contains intergenerational activities and educational exercises that older and younger people can do together to learn about their cultural heritage and family traditions. GU sold over 200 calendars and distributed almost 1800 to organizations and individuals.



GU's 2003 Intergenerational Photography Contest grand prize winner by Nancy Ostrander.

Project SHARE or Sharing Helps All Resources Expand

In 2004, GU received a grant from MetLife Foundation, which allows GU to build its intergenerational shared sites/shared resources initiative, known as Project SHARE – Sharing Helps All Resources Expand. To implement an important next step identified in GU's 2001 symposium and resulting action agenda, GU will develop a how to guide that will promote shared site programs while offering a practical blueprint for implementation. The publication will feature images from the Intergenerational Photography Contests, also sponsored by MetLife Foundation.



GU's 2004 Intergenerational Photography Contest grand prize winner by L. Roger Turner.

Arizona's Communities for All Ages

In 2003, GU helped launch Arizona's Communities for All Ages, a three year initiative supported by the Arizona Community Foundation. Nancy Henkin, director of Temple University's Center for Intergenerational Learning, developed the concept which she defines as communities "that promote the well-being of children, youth and older adults, strengthen families, and provide opportunities for ongoing, mutually beneficial interaction among age groups." A team including Dr. Henkin and GU's Donna Butts presented workshops around the state to generate interest. Following the workshops, nine communities were awarded planning grants to engage in community assessment and develop plans to address concerns that connect generations. The goal is for each community to create policies and practices that promote healthy living across the lifespan while recognizing the unique strengths of each generation. The project is being documented and the results will benefit Arizona communities and other states.

Program Committee

GU established a program committee to provide intergenerational program guidance to GU in much the same way GU's public policy committee provides policy leadership. Its first meeting was held in September 2004. This standing committee, led by GU board member Michael Marcus, has over a dozen members, all of whom are GU members and intergenerational program experts.

Project SPARC or Seniors: Powerful and Active Resources in Communities

GU continued to support Senior Corps with its new online recruitment system, www.seniorcorps.org. GU added volunteer opportunities with all of its KinNET support group sites to this system, in addition to working with Family Support America to include volunteer opportunities with its 2000+ family support centers.

Program Database On-Line

GU maintains the only national database of hundreds of intergenerational programs through the GU website at www.gu.org. The database is an easy tool for finding program profiles and contact information on a wide variety of intergenerational programs. Visitors to the database are also able to share information about their own programs with a national audience.

LEARN

GU co-chaired the special LEARN (Lifelong Education And Renewal Network) day at the 2003 and 2004 ASA/NCOA Joint Conferences. These special programs were well attended, with many new participants. They concentrated on building communities for all ages with special focus on policy issues, model programs, and hands-on strategies.



One of the winning photos from GU's 2004 Intergenerational Photography Contest, photo by David S. Greenfield.

National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Second National Expert Symposium on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

In July 2004, GU held its second national expert symposium on grandparents and other relatives raising children. Since GU's first national expert symposium seven years earlier, great strides have been made to support grandparents and other relatives and the children they raise. Most of the recommendations in the first symposium's resulting action agenda were successfully implemented. To celebrate those achievements and develop next action steps, GU and six co-sponsors — AARP, American Academy of Pediatrics, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, CWLA, and CDF — convened the second national expert symposium in Washington, D.C. Experts from around the country were invited to participate in a two-day discussion of what remains to be done to support each generation in these families. Twenty-eight recommended action items resulted, all of which are described in a second intergenerational action agenda, which will be released in January 2005. Much like the first one, this action agenda will be a blueprint for a national, collaborative effort to support grandparents and other relatives and the children they raise, and a call to action to anyone interested in joining the effort.

The National Family Caregiver Support Program

GU was awarded year two funding for its second Innovative Grant from the DHHS' Administration on Aging to continue its work supporting the implementation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) as it relates to grandparents and other relatives raising children. In 2003, GU expanded its ability to train the aging network and other community organizations by adding eight trainers to its national network of expert trainers. With 25 experts, the network now also has professionals well versed in Native American issues, mental health, substance abuse, coalition building, and rural area resources. GU deployed many of these experts to provide training around the country. Several of GU's expert trainers also conducted online expert chats for the aging network and others on many issues facing the families. GU staff responded to over 600 individual technical assistance requests. They also updated *A Guide to the National Family Caregiver Support Program and Its Inclusion of Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children*, in addition to the accompanying fact sheet.

GU completed a national survey about the NFCSP and its support of relative caregivers. The results confirmed the necessity of GU's work in this area:

- 78 percent of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), Native American Tribes, and primary health care centers that responded to the survey thought they would benefit from expert training regarding issues and services for grandparents and other relatives raising children. Survey responses included 180 requests for training from AAAs, Native American Tribes, and primary health care centers.
- 92 percent of the State Units on Aging responding indicated that they knew of an agency that would benefit from expert training.

"It's been tough, and financially it did put an extra crimp on things. We had to take a second mortgage on the house to take care of everything."

-Pat Owens, a grandmother raising a grandchild and the Director of Solutions for Children and Caregivers

First National Network of Support Groups for Relatives Caring for Kin in the Foster Care System...KinNET

2003 was the third and final year of the KinNET project, which was funded by DHHS' Children's Bureau to establish the first national network of support groups for relatives caring for kin in the foster care system. In partnership with The Brookdale Foundation Group (Brookdale), GU awarded mini-grants to twenty local nonprofit agencies around the country to conduct support groups. GU connected the sites by providing various forms of technical assistance, including an annual conference in collaboration with Brookdale, site visits, biannual conference calls, and online expert chats. This project ended with a first of its kind evaluation. The evaluation, conducted by a team of professors from Syracuse University, had very favorable results and showed the need for such a national network. KinNET sites served nearly 2,600 grandparents and other relative caregivers during its three years. A best practices video was produced and disseminated, which vividly highlights some of the evaluation findings and tells the stories of how KinNET has helped many families.

At end of the project, Brookdale generously agreed to adopt the top ten KinNET sites into its Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP). Through Brookdale's RAPP, the sites continue to receive technical assistance and remain connected with other relative caregiver support groups around the country.

Behavioral Health Model Program

GU received its fourth contract from the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the DHHS to continue to replicate Brookdale's RAPP in behavioral health agencies across the United States. By placing the RAPP program in mental health agencies, the families have access to a wide range of enhanced mental health services.

Additional Center Accomplishments

- Completed a Research & Action Brief and fact sheet for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which emphasizes how grandparents are valuable resources to support children and strengthen families.
- Updated four of GU's fact sheets on the issues facing relatives raising children.
- Continued to track state legislation and provide assistance to those interested in pursuing new legislation in their states.
- Convened quarterly the advisory group consisting of experts from around the country who have guided the Center's work since 1997.
- In collaboration with CDF and several other national organizations, updated 51 fact sheets with information about programs and policies for grandparents and other relatives raising children in each state and the District of Columbia.

Public Education

Website

GU's website at www.gu.org continues to be its most significant outreach and educational tool. Receiving more than 15,000 visitors a month, the website contains the only intergenerational program database in the country, several GU guides in their entirety, fact sheets concerning many intergenerational issues, and key intergenerational public policy information, in addition to much more. Beginning in 2004, a working group of GU staff members is implementing significant content and structural improvements to the GU website.

Together Newsletter

During 2003-2004 the circulation list for GU's popular newsletter *Together* grew to over 8,000 names. In order to meet member demands *Together* became available to GU members on-line. By logging in the member's only section, *Together* is accessible thirty days before it becomes available to the general public.

Generations This Week

Generations This Week (GTW) is an electronic newsletter for GU members only. GTW provides the most up to date intergenerational news, funding sources, and much more. By the end of 2004, GTW reached over 400 GU members every Friday.

Media Outreach

In 2003-04, GU garnered a diverse range of positive media attention. These news stories often acknowledged the great work GU is doing, but more importantly brought to light the issues it champions on behalf of its members.

The *Wall Street Journal* contacted GU when informing its business minded readers about the growing number of shared site intergenerational programs in the United States. The Associated Press, *Parade Magazine*, and various newspapers turned to GU when they reported on the heroic grandfamilies who step in to make sure children remain in safe and stable homes. When the U.S. Census released its report pointing to higher poverty rates among grandfamilies, several media outlets including Knight-Ridder news service and CNN *Financial News* interviewed Donna Butts about the need for policies and programs to assist these families.

Donna Butts was also interviewed by two of National Public Radio's most popular programs— *All Things Considered* and *Marketplace* about issues affecting grandfamilies. GU was contacted by dozens of other local and regional media outlets around the country.



“Being a member of Generations United is important to me. It’s my community. They keep me up to date with the latest intergenerational news and trends.”

**-Helene Block Fields, Professor Emeritus in Early Childhood Education at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, Illinois
and a GU Sustaining Member Since 1998**

Presentations

Throughout 2003-2004, GU staff gave almost 110 keynote addresses, presentations, and workshops at international, national, state, and local conferences.

Some highlights from GU’s long list of presentations include:

- Donna Butts was invited to speak about the strengths and challenges of grandparent caregivers at the Rosalynn Carter Intergenerational Caregiving Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Jaia Peterson Lent addressed 300 attendees during her keynote address at the 49th Annual Kirkpatrick Memorial Conference on Aging in Muncie, Indiana.
- Donna Butts was invited to present at both the 2003 and 2004 “Family ReUnion” conferences hosted by former Vice President Al Gore and Mrs. Tipper Gore and sponsored by the University of Minnesota and Vanderbilt University.
- GU staff was asked to speak about grandfamilies at Syracuse University’s Policy Day.
- Donna Butts was invited to participate in the Harvard School of Public Health - MetLife Foundation conference on Baby Boomers and Retirement: Impact on Civic Engagement, and later spoke at the National Press Club during the release of the resulting report *Reinventing Aging: Baby Boomers and Civic Engagement*.
- Brent Elrod made several presentations at the Gerontological Society of America’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.
- GU staff presented three workshop sessions at the International Consortium of Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP) Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.
- Sheri Steinig gave two workshops at the Generations Together Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Donna Butts spoke at the first Minnesota Kinship Caregiver Association conference.
- Ana Beltran and Kaja Snell were invited to make several presentations at an AARP Grandparent Information Center training in St. Petersburg, Florida.
- Donna Butts was asked to speak about intergenerational service learning and volunteerism at the Center on Philanthropy in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- In both 2003 and 2004, Donna Butts addressed the journalists participating in the International Longevity Center’s Age Boom Academy.

- Caroline Crocoll spoke at the 2003 Children's Bureau Grantees Conference, and Donna Butts presented at the 2003 Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs Grantees Conference.
- Donna Butts gave the keynote at the Greater Washington D.C.-Baltimore Easter Seals annual dinner. The dinner was the kick off for its shared site capitol campaign.

American Family Outreach and Mini-Grants

GU worked again with Outreach Extensions on the national outreach campaign for the second season of the acclaimed PBS series American Family – Journal of Dreams. The miniseries that chronicles the multigenerational saga of one family's pursuit of the American dream, premiered in April 2004. As part of this project, GU provided content and background information for the American Family

Tree poster produced by PBS for the outreach campaign. The poster, which can be found at www.pbs.org/americanfamily/tree/, includes activities to record and share stories and understand and celebrate culture and heritage. As part of this effort, GU also awarded 10 mini-grants of \$500 each to nonprofit groups to plan and implement intergenerational projects that focus on the transfer of rich cultural traditions and family stories between the generations.

Other Intergenerational Outreach Efforts

Along with the National Family Caregiver Association and the Administration on Aging at DHHS, GU promoted November 2003 and November 2004 as National Family Caregivers Month.



One of the winning photos from GU's 2003 Intergenerational Photography Contest, photo by Shari Augins.

Looking to the Future

As more attention is given to aging baby boomers, GU continues to have a unique mission that sets a focused path for its future. As the only national intergenerational membership organization, its role is well defined and essential. GU will continue to expand upon its past work and successes to help guide its future. Among the many plans for the near-future, GU will do the following:

“Uniting Generations to Support Children in Foster Care,” with funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts, is a GU initiative designed to raise awareness of the need to support grandparents and other relatives raising children in the foster care system. The project began in December 2004, and will offer education and outreach on policy recommendations that provide the services and resources children in the care of relatives need to reach successful adulthood. Special attention will be given to the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care’s recommendation that federal guardianship assistance be available to all children who leave foster care to live with a safe, legal guardian when adoption or reunification with parents is not a viable permanency option.

GU will continue to educate Congress and the public on the importance of supportive services for relative-headed families, such as guardianship assistance. GU, along with the work of many of its partners, will work to have the Kinship Caregiver Support Act reintroduced in Congress in 2005.

Also in 2005, with funding from AARP, GU will launch Social Security for Youth to inform the current debate over Social Security. GU will partner with youth-serving organizations and coalitions to provide non-partisan and unbiased information about how the program currently benefits America’s children, youth, and families and the impact particular changes may have on current and future generations.

GU will convene the first national expert symposium on creating affordable housing opportunities for grandparents and other relatives raising children in January 2005. The symposium will result in an action agenda that sets forth the symposium participants’ recommendations and steps for implementing those recommendations. GU will continue its pioneering grandparent housing work by collaborating with its partners to implement this agenda, which will include strategies to fund LEGACY.

In 2005, thanks to the Verizon Foundation, GU will launch a new website with expanded capabilities for communicating and promoting intergenerational strategies, programs, and policies. GU will also build on its efforts to support the development of intergenerational shared site programs through the publication of a practical how to guide.

A second national GrandRally is being planned for September 2005. Hundreds of relative caregivers will convene on Capitol Hill to tell federal lawmakers their strengths and challenges, and ask for support. The GrandRally will be held in collaboration with GU’s 13th biennial International Conference.

Finally, GU will continue its work to spread the intergenerational word around the world. GU will seek non-governmental organization (NGO) status with the United Nations (UN) so it can infuse intergenerational strategies into the UN’s work. GU will also help take the intergenerational message to a new continent at the International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes’ (ICIP) 2006 conference in Melbourne, Australia.

GU Awards

Jack Ossofsky Award for Lifetime Achievement in Support of Children, Youth, and the Elderly:
The Honorable Mike DeWine, U.S. Senate (R-OH)

GU Leadership Award for Outstanding Support of Intergenerational Programs:
New Courtland Elder Services, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Steven L. Tunick Award for Outstanding Achievement in Intergenerational Programming:
Esstoya "Toy" Whitley, Founder, Adopt a Grandparent Program, Gainesville, Florida

Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award:
Dan Dillman, Montello Teenpower, Montello, Wisconsin

Outstanding Older Adult Volunteer Award:
Edwin Krentzman, FELLOWS, Hawai'i Intergenerational Network, Kailua, Hawai'i

AARP Grandparent Award:
Reverend Clifford Barnett, AME Brighton Rock Church, Portsmouth, Virginia

Warren Featherbone Foundation Award for Innovation in Connecting The Generations:
Peggy Lawrence Burns, Founder and Executive Director, Traveling Grannies/Grandpas Program and the Foster Grandparent Program, Grand Rapids, Michigan

GU Publications

2003

Fact Sheet: Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Information and Assistance Services (Updated)

Fact Sheet: Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Providing Services for Caregivers of All Ages

Fact Sheet: Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Their Inclusion in the National Family Caregiver Support Program (Updated)

A Guide to the National Family Caregiver Support Program and Its Inclusion of Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children (Updated)

A Public Policy Agenda for the 108th Congress

2004

Fact Sheet: Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Respite Care (Updated)

Fact Sheet: Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Caregiver Support Groups (Updated)

Generations United for Environmental Awareness and Action

Intergenerational Photo Contest Calendar

GU Financial Supporters

AARP	Fannie Mae Foundation	United Way of America
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging	The Fusion Group	Verizon Corporation
Annie E. Casey Foundation	Johnson & Johnson	Verizon Foundation
Arizona Community Foundation	Matz, Blancato & Associates	Volunteers of America
Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America	MetLife Foundation	
The Brookdale Foundation Group	National Association of Children's Hospitals & Related Institutions	<i>Generations United would also like to thank the individual contributors to our year end campaigns:</i>
Carr Real Estate Services	National Association of Counties	
Casey Family Programs	National Council on Aging	Bob Blancato
Child Welfare League of America	National Education Association	Donna Butts
Children's Defense Fund	Ono, Inc.	Helene Block Fields
Corporation for National and Community Service	OutReach Extensions	Marlene Sue Goldman
DHHS - Administration on Aging	Paul Tudor Jones	Rose Heim
DHHS - Center for Mental Health Services	Pennsylvania State University	Myrna Lee Houston
DHHS - Children's Bureau	Points of Light Foundation	Irv Katz
Environmental Protection Agency	Robert Dugger	Johnetta Kelly
Family Support America	Stanley Druckenmiller	Bill Libro
	Toys "R" Us Children's Fund	Ernest Mahaffey
	Tudor Investment Corporation	Sharon McDaniel

GU Honors



GU Executive Director, Donna M. Butts, proudly accepting the 2004 Johnson & Johnson Rosalynn Carter Caregiver Institute's Leadership Award. Pictured from left to right- J&J Chairman and CEO William C. Weldon, GU Member Robin Tillotson, Donna M. Butts, GU Board Member and Vice-President Brookdale Foundation Group Mary Ann Van Clief, GU Board Member and CEO of Volunteers of America Charles Gould, Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

- Generations United was given the 2004 Johnson & Johnson/Rosalynn Carter Caregiver Institute Leadership Award.
- Donna Butts received the National Council on Aging's 2004 Jack Ossofsky Award for her Leadership, Creativity, and Innovation in Programs and Services for Older Persons.
- Jaia Peterson Lent and Donna Butts co-wrote a chapter that was published in *The Atlas of America's Children*.
- Donna Butts wrote a chapter to be published in the Rosalynn Carter Caregiver Institute's book series, and an article published in the Center on Philanthropy's journal edition on Philanthropy Across the Generations.
- Donna Butts was elected Vice-Chair of the Management Committee of the International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP).

GU Board of Directors

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AARP

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Services for the Aging

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National Association of Counties

Mark K. Shriver (2003)
Vice President and Managing
Director
U.S. Programs
Save the Children

Susan Sullivan (mid 2003-2004)
Director, Strategic Planning and
Partnerships
Verizon Foundation

Paul N. D. Thornell
Vice President, Public Policy and
Partners
United Way of America

Mary Ann Van Clief
Vice President
The Brookdale Foundation Group

Judy Vredenburg
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Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America

Special Advisors
Robert Blancato
Partner
Matz, Blancato, & Associates

Catherine Milton
President
Friends of the Children

GU Staff

Donna Butts - Executive Director

Andre Baldwin -
Program Assistant/Coordinator,
National Center on Grandparents
and Other Relatives Raising
Children

Ana Beltran - Special Advisor,
National Center on Grandparents
and Other Relatives Raising
Children

Caroline Crocoll - Associate
Director, National Center on
Grandparents and Other
Relatives Raising
Children/Program Director
(2003)

Brent Elrod - Manager, Policy and
Program (2004)

Cara Goldstein - Coordinator,
National Center on Grandparents
and Other Relatives Raising
Children (2003)

Marlene Goldman- Project
Specialist (2004)

Terence Steven Kane - Public Policy
Assistant (2003-early 2004)

Douglas Lent - Membership
Assistant

John Martin – Project Assistant
(2004)

Florence Mitchell - Office Assistant
(2003)

Jaia Peterson Lent - Public Policy
Director/Newsletter Editor

Jason Simon- Intergenerational
Assistant (2004)

Kaja Snell – Manager, National
Center on Grandparents and
Other Relatives Raising Children
(2003-mid 2004)

Eboni Speight - Office/Grants
Manager

Sheri Steinig - Program
Director/Special Projects
Director

2003-2004 GU Members

Organizational Members

AARP *
 American Association of
 Homes and Services
 for the Aging*
 American Public
 Human Services
 Association
 American Society on
 Aging
 AT&T, Family Care
 Development Fund
 The Beth Johnson
 Foundation
 Big Brothers/Big Sisters
 of America*
 Boston Aging Concerns
 Young & Old United
 The Brookdale
 Foundation Group*
 Casey Family Services
 Catholic Charities USA
 Center for Law and
 Social Policy
 The Chicago
 Community Trust
 Chicago Metropolitan
 Intergenerational
 Committee
 Child Welfare League of
 America*
 Children's Defense
 Fund*
 Chilton Memorial
 Hospital
 City of Norwalk
 Civic Ventures*
 Cluster Inc.
 The Colorado Trust
 The Communication
 Project
 DAC-Advocates for
 Children & Families

* signifies a board member
 organization

Division of Aging and
 Adult Services/
 Arkansas DHHS
 Diversity Initiatives
 Dock Woods
 Community
 Dorot Inc.
 Easter Seals
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 Inc.
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 Intergenerational
 TaskForce
 The Foundation for
 Grandparenting
 Generations of Hope
 Generations Together
 Grandkidsandme Inc.
 Grandma's House of
 Westminster Care of
 Orlando
 Grandma's Support
 Group/Pines
 Community Center
 Grandparents As
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 Grandparents
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Intergenerational
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 Joint Action in
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 Messiah Housing
 National Association
 of Area Agencies on
 Aging
 National Association of
 Children's Hospitals
 and Related
 Institutions*
 National Association of
 Counties*
 National Association of
 Foster Grandparent
 Program Directors
 National Association of
 Social Workers
 National Black Child
 Development
 Institute, Inc.
 National Center on
 Grandparents Raising
 Children
 National Council on
 Aging*
 National Council of
 Catholic Women
 National Crime
 Prevention Council
 National 4-H Council
 National Human
 Services Assembly*
 National Network for
 Youth
 New Jersey
 Intergenerational
 Network
 New York State
 Intergenerational
 Network
 North Utica Senior
 Citizens Community
 Center
 Older Person's
 Commission

ONEgeneration
 Pathways
 Penn State
 Intergenerational
 Program
 Plymouth
 Intergenerational
 Coalition
 Points of Light
 Foundation*
 Presbyterian Senior
 Services
 Retired and Senior
 Volunteer Program
 RJMC Inc
 Rosalynn Carter
 Institute
 Saint Claire's
 Community Center
 Saint John's Home of
 Milwaukee
 Salvation Army
 Save the Children
 Second Time Around
 Parents/Family &
 Community Service
 of Delaware Co.
 Senior Citizens Service
 Temple University
 Center for
 Intergenerational
 Learning
 Toys "R" Us*
 Tressler Lutheran
 Services
 Tudor Investment
 Corporation*
 United Way of
 America*
 University of South
 Florida School of
 Social Work
 Verizon
 Communications*
 Verizon Foundation*
 Volunteers of
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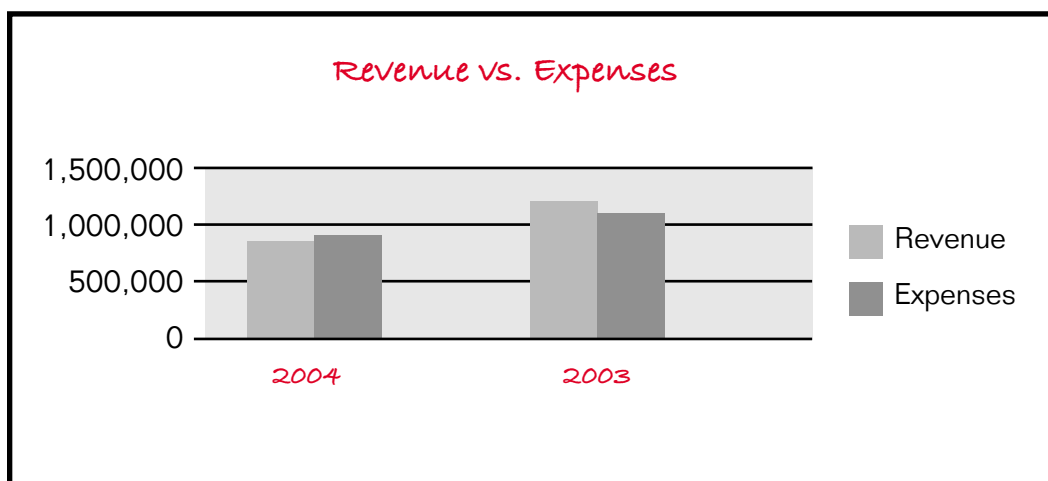
GU Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

	2004	2003
Revenue:		
Contributions and Grants	311,149	814,011
Conference and Symposium	160	*55,160
Membership dues	143,525	89,290
In-kind contributions	72,624	85,253
Other	20,805	15,946
Net assets released from restrictions:		
Satisfaction of program restrictions	230,081	88,453
Total Revenue	778,344	1,147,113
Expenses:		
<i>Program Services:</i>		
NFCSP	187,371	271,650
Photography Contest/Shared Sites	140,749	30,498
Public Education	94,575	36,151
Publications	61,746	0
Membership	60,470	29,624
i-PATH	52,734	0
NEA Retired	40,508	14,161
grandparents Project	27,793	1,252
Legacy	19,483	1,029
Relatives as Parents Program	16,579	32,534
Johnson & Johnson	14,073	0
American Family	11,013	0
Housing Symposium	9,818	0
Environmental Protection Agency	5,100	69,974
Casey Foundation	4,210	30,177
Conference	2,688	86,013
KinNET	2,118	363,139
Pew Charitable Trusts	1,412	0
Project SPARC	0	62,241
<i>Supporting Services</i>		
General and Administrative	33,678	76,237
Total Expenses	786,118	1,104,680
Change in unrestricted net assets	-7,774	42,433
Change in temporarily restricted assets		
Grants and contributions	339,871	76,500
Net assets released from restrictions	-230,081	-88,453
Change in temporarily restricted assets	109,790	-11,953
Change in Net Assets	102,016	30,480
Net Assets, beginning of year	575,315	544,835
Net Assets, end of year	677,331	575,315

Generations United Statement of Financial Position

	2004	2003
	ASSETS	
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	160,877	236,610
Certificate of Deposit	345,408	197,018
Accounts receivable	96,949	57,312
Grants receivable	65,000	137,000
Prepaid expenses	13,498	13,498
Furniture and equipment (net)	12,133	15,009
Total assets	<u>693,865</u>	<u>656,447</u>
	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	5,979	31,405
Accrued expenses	10,555	14,727
Deferred dues (net)	•	35,000
Total liabilities	<u>16,534</u>	<u>81,132</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	508,298	516,072
Temporarily restricted	169,033	59,243
Total Net Assets	<u>677,331</u>	<u>575,315</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>693,865</u>	<u>656,447</u>



Auditor's Statement

To the Board of Directors of
Generations United

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Generations United (the Organization) as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Generations United as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 and results of its activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Lane & Company
Certified Public Accountants
Washington, DC
April 14, 2005



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