

Connecting the Generations: Building a Pathway to Success

**Generations United Annual Report
2007 and 2008**



**generations
united**

Because we're stronger together

From the Chair and Executive Director

As Barack Obama prepared to become America's 44th president in January 2009, leaders working to connect generations discovered a new high-profile example: the White House. Marian Robinson, Michelle Obama's mother and Sasha and Malia Obama's grandmother, planned to move to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to aid the family's transition from Chicago to Washington D.C.

America's new "First Grandma," and subsequent media attention surrounding the First Family's move to the White House, led to Generations United Executive Director Donna Butts appearing on ABC World News, Fox News and the Today Show in late 2008 to talk about the value of multigenerational families. This national emphasis on grandparents was a fitting end to the years covered in this biennial report, 2007 through 2008.

Our work to strengthen bonds between children, youth and older adults deepened during these two years, leading to myriad legislative and programmatic successes. President George W. Bush signed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act into law in September of 2008 after more than four years of work on the part of GU and countless legislative, community and charitable partners. This important law helps grandfamilies – families led by grandparents or other relatives – in their efforts to ensure that every child has a safe and permanent home.

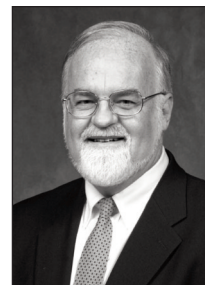
We also continued work on implementing our vital public policy, LEGACY intergenerational housing, which was incorporated into the American Dream Downpayment Act in 2003. As the recognized resource on grandfamilies and their housing needs, we worked with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), training HUD staffers on grandfamilies in a national satellite seminar broadcast to all 51 state sites.

With the generous help of MetLife Foundation, we worked to raise the visibility of intergenerational shared site programs around the country through the new MetLife Foundation/Generations United Shared Site Best Practice Awards, a program that was premiered with the release of a study showing the cost-savings benefits of centers that connect generations using shared facilities, activities and staff.

Our civic engagement effort, Seniors4Kids, which saw success after its inception in Florida in 2005 in showcasing older adult support for quality pre-k, continued to expand, supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts and Pre-K Now. In 2007 and 2008, Seniors4Kids engaged older adults in New York, Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania, giving them the tools they needed to raise their voices to state legislators about their passion for children's education.

Our public outreach intensified as we unveiled our new logo and tagline: Because We're Stronger Together, at our 14th international conference, which was our largest ever, with more than 400 participants from eight countries. This updated look and feel highlighted our continuing relevancy as we move into our third decade of existence. We continued to stay current, embracing new technologies and trends while maintaining our existing connections and vision. Our new video, "Generations United: How We Live Our Lives," utilized the power of multimedia and the internet as we posted it on YouTube for the world to see.

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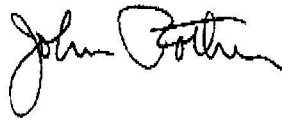
*John Rother
Board Chair*



*Donna Butts
Executive Director*

These are all tangible accomplishments – shining achievements to hold up as evidence of the progress GU has made since its inception in 1986 as a countering voice to perceived growing intergenerational rifts. But as we celebrated two decades of success, our Board of Directors also saw fit to take a step back and re-evaluate their own role as leaders of this organization. Less visible in this report, but of vital importance, was the work the Board began in 2008 to better articulate its mission and vision. Among the questions Board members considered were, is GU a true coalition, an independent organization supported by its members, or something in between? What is the nature of GU's contribution? What kind of Board should GU have, and what value should it have?

As we move into the future, we look forward to grappling with those questions in order to increase GU's reach and influence. We look forward to continuing this important work with our members, other partners and supporters. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to connect the generations, building a pathway to success.



John Rother
Board Chair



Donna Butts
Executive Director

A Catalyst for Collaboration

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. 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, GU became an independent organization in 1997 with 100 national organizational members.

Since its founding, GU remains the only national nonprofit membership organization focused solely on 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.

In 2007 and 2008, GU continued to be a thriving organization with an increased reach. GU deepened partnerships with its founding and board member organizations, illuminating shared needs and gifts across the age spectrum.

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 impetus 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.
- Every person, younger and older, is a resource and adds value.
- 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 their community.
- Social capital grows as caring and understanding is increased across generations.
- 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

Intergenerational Approach To Public Policy

GU sparks societal change by bringing single-aged focused groups together to promote a common, intergenerational agenda and spreading the message that 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.

"The way we treat our children in the dawn of their lives and the way we treat our elderly in the twilight of their lives is a measure of the quality of a nation."

-Hubert H. Humphrey

Effective public policies use an intergenerational approach by recognizing these similar needs and the fact that the generations are interdependent now and throughout time. Accordingly, resources should be allocated wisely to connect generations rather than separate them.

GU recognizes a public policy issue as intergenerational when it incorporates such an intergenerational approach to addressing an issue and/or has an impact across the generations. GU determines if a public policy is sensitive to all generations if it receives a positive response to questions such as

- Are people of all ages being viewed as resources?
- Does the policy promote the interdependence of the generations?
- Is the policy sensitive to intergenerational family structures, e.g., grandparents who are raising grandchildren?
- Does the policy encourage intergenerational transfers through shared care or services?

Public Policy Committee

More than a dozen public policy experts and other leaders from prominent national children's, youth, and aging organizations serve on GU's public policy committee. The public policy committee meets quarterly 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. The public policy committee continues to benefit from the wisdom and work of its co-chairs, Jennifer Dexter, Senior Government Relations Specialist for Easter Seals, and Howard Bedlin, Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy with the National Council on Aging.

Legislative Victory: All Children Deserve A Permanent Family

Advocates for children, youth, older adults and families celebrated in September 2008 when President George W. Bush signed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, a culmination of more than four years of work on the part of Generations United and countless legislative, community and charitable partners.

The Fostering Connections law helps grandparents and other relatives both inside and outside the child welfare system by:

- Authorizing subsidized guardianship to enable children in the care of grandparents and other relatives to exit foster care into permanent homes
- Establishing "Kinship Navigator" programs to help link relative caregivers both inside and outside of the formal child welfare system to a broad range of services and supports that will help them meet the needs of the children in their care

- Requiring notice be given to adult relatives of a child within 30 days of that child being removed from the custody of their parents to be placed in foster care
- Clarifying that states may waive non-safety related licensing standards for relative homes on a case by case basis

The law also supports children and families by:

- Extending direct Title IV-E funding to tribal governments
- Reauthorizing the Adoption Incentives Program, a critical tool in helping children become adopted.
- Allowing states to receive federal reimbursement for support provided to foster youth up to age 21
- Requiring reasonable efforts to keep siblings together
- Making improvements to health care coordination and educational stability for children in foster care

"You 'age out' of a system, but you don't age out of a family."

-Donna Butts, GU
Executive Director

Efforts to pass a legislative safeguard for grandfamilies began in 2004 as the Kinship Caregiver Support Act. In March 2007, Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) reintroduced the act into the 110th Congress. GU continued its collaboration with leading national organizations to educate Members of Congress on grandfamilies and the needs that this legislation would address; *Time for Reform: Support Relatives in Providing Foster Care and Permanent Families for Children*, a report on how well children fare in relative foster care, was released at a Hill briefing on March 15, 2007.

Representatives Danny K. Davis (D-IL) and Tim Johnson (R-IL) introduced a similar bill in the House of Representatives in May of that year. GU co-sponsored a briefing on the Hill featuring Rep. Davis and personal stories emphasizing the importance of grandfamilies and the supports they deserve.

GU's work to support the bill continued in September with the briefing and release of a new publication, *"Una Familia para Cada Niño: Supporting Permanent Families for Latino Children in Foster Care,"* releasing new data and recommendations supporting the act. More than one third of Latino children in family foster care live with grandparents and other relatives.

By February 2008, GU's sign-on letter supporting the Kinship Caregiver Support Act included representation from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Momentum was building for this bipartisan effort that would aid families from all corners of the country. GU's work with coalition partners began to bear fruit as a growing consensus from Congressional leaders emerged on the broad principles of reforming the child welfare and foster care system.



Donna Butts and Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) introduce the Kinship Caregiver Support Act in March 2007.

"My life would have been different if subsidized guardianship was available when I was young. I would have had a place to call home. I would have been able to maintain contact with my family."

– Andra Moyer, former foster youth now working for kinship care legislation

On the House side, Rep. James McDermott (D-WA) worked with Rep. Gerald Weller (R-IL) to introduce the Fostering Connections Act. On the Senate side, Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) introduced the Improved Adoptions Incentive and Relative Guardianship Support Act.

The final bill, introduced by Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) incorporated elements from both House and Senate bills. With the leadership and support of these members of Congress, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 – passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by President Bush on October 7, 2008.

As the session of the 110th Congress drew to a close, GU's policy team began the next stage of work: implementation of Fostering Connections in all 50 states. GU prepared to begin research, outreach and education efforts on the best way to bring the law from policy to reality.

A More Intergenerational Older Americans Act

In 2006, GU worked with a coalition of organizations to successfully lower the age limit for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) as part of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. This change in the law from age 60 to age 55 increased the number of grandparents raising grandchildren who were eligible for supportive services from local Area Agencies on Aging from 29% to 47%. In 2007 and 2008, GU worked on implementation of these changes by presenting at regional and national conferences, distributing information through the website, newsletter and electronic alerts, and educating GU's grandfamilies national partnership working group and state networks through presentations at quarterly meetings. GU also collaborated with key member organizations to seek funding for the newly authorized multigenerational civic engagement projects in the Older Americans Act.

2007 Hill Day

GU's 2007 Hill Day, which accompanied GU's annual conference, empowered more than 70 people from 20 states to take their priorities to their legislators. At least 12 new co-sponsors came onto the Kinship Caregiver Support Act in the House immediately following visits made on Hill Day. For more than half the Hill Day attendees, this was their first experience of Capitol Hill advocacy. Following the forum and training, attendees felt able to make unaccompanied visits to their legislators' offices, and a number were able to meet directly with their Members of Congress.



Stacey Walker, 2006 Boys & Girls Club National Youth of the Year, speaks at the 2008 GrandRally.

2008 GrandRally

In May 2008, hundreds of grandfamilies gathered outside the Capitol to highlight their important role in raising children and their need for help from family, friends, state and national organizations, and elected officials. Close to 1,000 people attended the rally, where Representatives James McDermott (D-WA) and Danny K. Davis (D-IL) spoke at the rally along with representatives from other co-sponsoring organizations and Donna Butts. Former “American Idol” finalist Kellie Pickler sang along with other caregivers and young people, and shared her story of being raised by grandparents and how it “made her the woman she was.”

Intergenerational Programs

Program Committee

GU built upon the progress made by the Program Committee in 2007, which meets in conjunction with the GU board meetings. The committee, made up of over 12 GU members, was expertly chaired by GU board member Michael Marcus, Program Officer for the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, and added guidance, oversight, and focus to Generations United's intergenerational program resource work. In 2008, the focus changed from GU's goals to the aims and the role of the program committee itself; board members and other leaders lent their expertise and analysis as GU prepared to move into 2009 and 2010.

GU's 2007 14th International Conference



Native American Dance Troupe Little Thunder after performing at GU's 2007 Conference

GU's 2007 conference, Intergenerational – It's Monumental, attracted more than 400 participants from eight countries over July 24-27 in Washington, D.C. The biennial international conference was its largest in history, an increase of nearly 100 participants from the 2005 conference. The conference offered opportunities to learn from and connect with experts around the country and the world about intergenerational program models and public policy efforts that affect younger and older generations. Attendees learned the latest information concerning intergenerational shared sites, grandfamilies, and elders as community resources.

National Center on Intergenerational Shared Sites

Beginning in 1999, GU's Board of Directors identified intergenerational shared sites as both an innovative and responsible way of providing services to and programs for older adults, children, and youth. GU launched this initiative in 2001 with an expert symposium and resulting action agenda which set the foundation of our work. Since then, GU has committed to encouraging the growth and development of intergenerational shared sites through training, resources, assistance, best practice awards, seed grants, and networking. In 2008, with renewed commitment from the Board of Directors, GU established the National Center on Intergenerational Shared Sites as an umbrella for our work.

In 2007 and 2008, with the generous support of MetLife Foundation, GU increased efforts to raise the visibility of intergenerational shared site programs and promote their expansion and growth across the country.

Best Practice Awards

Through the new MetLife Foundation/Generations United Intergenerational Shared Site Best Practice Awards, GU sought to honor organizations demonstrating exemplary practices.

In 2008, GU recognized five award winners and five national finalists in GU's first ever Shared Site Best Practices Awards Program. Winners were honored at an event on June 5 at the National Press Club.

Award Winners:

The JEWEL Program- Mount Kisco Day Care Center and My Second Home, Mt. Kisco, NY
Macklin Intergenerational Institute, Findlay, OH
Neighbors Growing Together: Virginia Tech Intergenerational Program, Blacksburg, VA
New Alternatives, Inc- San Pasqual Academy Neighbors (SPAN) Program, San Diego, CA
United Retirement Center/Avera, Brookings, SD

National Finalists:

Grandma's House, 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, Norwalk, CT

Awards were given based on the following criteria:

- Program Structure: Thoughtful development and implementation of a structured, intergenerational program curriculum.
- Program Detail: The intergenerational program is designed to build mutually beneficial, ongoing relationships between younger and older participants.
- Contact: Contact between generations is frequent and includes both planned and unplanned interactions.
- Impact: The program demonstrates a positive impact on participants.
- Community Needs: The program meets an identified need in the community.
- Interaction: Participants are given the option to participate and offered different levels of intergenerational interaction.
- Staffing: Staff members collaborate on program planning, coordinate joint meetings, and are cross-trained on intergenerational issues.
- Community Involvement: Other partners in the community are engaged in program activities.
- Sustainability: Organizers demonstrate a commitment to program sustainability.
- Evaluation: The program is evaluated based on outcomes.
- Creativity: The program is unique in terms of building structure, populations served, and services offered.
- Replication: The program can be replicated by other organizations.

Resources

In 2007, GU published *Tried and True: A Guide to Successful Intergenerational Activities at Shared Site Programs* developed by Dr. Shannon Jarrott and the Neighbors Growing Together program at Virginia Tech University. This guide provides background information on shared sites, recommendations on developing intergenerational activities, tips for facilitators, 50 intergenerational activities, and sample planning and evaluation forms. The guide was made avail-

"Our results reveal that connecting generations via shared site programs has the potential to yield mutual financial benefit as the child and elderly participants may serve as intergenerational resources to each other."

– Intergenerational Shared Sites: Saving Dollars While Making Sense, p. 15

able for free on the GU website. GU received extremely positive feedback on this new resource from practitioners at shared sites, as well as individuals interested in conducting intergenerational activities with older and younger people in a variety of settings.

Also in 2007, GU developed a marketing video on shared sites, "Generations United: How We Live Our Lives." GU filmed two multigenerational community centers in the Phoenix, AZ area and interviewed a city council member from Apache Junction who supported the center and the retired community planner who oversaw the development of the center in Mesa. This footage was augmented with an interview with Donna Butts and footage of other types of intergenerational settings. The final product was released at GU's international conference and made available on YouTube.

In 2008, GU contracted with Dr. Jarrott again to conduct a study on the cost-savings of intergenerational shared site programs. The study, released at the June 5th Press Club event in the GU publication "Shared Sites: Saving Dollars While Making Sense," found that shared sites that integrate their expenses do save costs in critical areas such as staff retention, program expenses and facility costs over those that do not.

Raising Their Voices for Pre-K: Seniors4Kids

In 2007 and 2008, GU continued to strengthen and expand its Seniors4Kids initiative, a civic engagement effort created in 2005 to raise the visibility of older adult support of quality pre-kindergarten (pre-k). Funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and Pre-K Now, and working with both state and individual partners, GU recruited, educated, and supported older adults as advocates for statewide pre-k efforts.

• Florida Seniors4Kids

GU's pilot Seniors4Kids program in Florida, which ran from 2005 to 2007, achieved stunning success in highlighting older adult support for early childhood education across the state. Four lead ELDER (Energetic Leaders Demanding Education and Results) Captains coordinated on-the-ground efforts in major media markets; by the program's close in 2007, 125 ELDER Captains had written 500 letters, published 8 letters to the editor and attended awareness-raising events large and small.

Notably, four former governors, and one widow of a former governor, signed on as honorary co-chairs.

These dignitaries signed an op-ed that appeared in eight newspapers across the state; GU also took part in editorial board meetings and aided state partner Children's Campaign of Florida in educating voters of all generations about the importance of high-quality early childhood education.



Florida State Senator Nan Rich (D-34) at a Florida Seniors4Kids event in November 2007

• *New York and Kentucky*

Building upon the success of Seniors4Kids in Florida, The Pew Charitable Trusts supported the expansion of Seniors4Kids to New York and Kentucky in July of 2007. In the first year of this expansion, GU's Seniors4Kids secured a total of 164 captains in New York and Kentucky – 104 in New York and 60 in Kentucky. S4K's efforts led to 580 additional database entries from age 50+ adults; 368 entries were from New York and 212 were from Kentucky.

GU worked with Kentucky state partner the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence to recruit the current Kentucky First Lady Jane Beshear and all of the seven living former First Ladies as honorary co-chairs. First Lady Beshear's support for Seniors4Kids included hosting a kick-off for the initiative in Frankfort at the Governor's Mansion. In New York, GU, with state partner Winning Beginning New York, secured the support of former New York Mayor David Dinkins and his wife Joyce Dinkins as honorary co-chairs.

Seniors4Kids released two signature reports highlighting the state of pre-k in New York and Kentucky as well as factsheets illuminating the heightened need for pre-k for African-American children in Kentucky and Latino children in New York. Seniors4Kids was also successful in generating eleven newspaper or broadcast stories and twelve opinion pieces in New York and Kentucky, including 9 letters to the editor.



Kentucky Seniors4Kids gather in the Governor's Mansion with First Lady and Honorary Co-Chair Jane Beshear in June 2008.

"I am never going to have a street or a building named after me, but by trying to improve the education of the children in this state, this can be a lasting legacy for me and all of us."

- Donna Bailey, Florida Seniors4Kids Captain, Hollywood, FL

• *Ohio*

Ohio Seniors4Kids launched as a short-term initiative in March 2007 and ran through the end of the legislative session on June 30, 2007. More than 45 adults, ages 50+, served as grassroots advocates for high quality early care and education. Former State Senators Merle Grace Kearns and Judy Sheerer were recruited to serve as honorary co-chairs of the initiative. Seniors4Kids was featured in four articles published in statewide print media. An additional six letters to the editor from Captains and the honorary co-chairs were published in papers across the state.

• *Pennsylvania*

In November 2008, Pennsylvania became the 5th state to host a Seniors4Kids initiative. GU staff began work to secure a state coordinator, reach advocates for children and begin a successful effort to spotlight older adult support for early childhood education.

Intergenerational Environmental Health

GU continued its commitment to intergenerational environmental health, building upon work that started in 2005 with a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA). GU completed its work on this grant program in 2007, providing small grants and technical assistance to organizations around the country to address intergenerational environmental health. These programs were:

Community Celebration of Place, Inc., Minneapolis, MN
Friends of Blackwater, Charleston, WV
The PEAK Center, Lansdale, PA
Tricycle Gardens, Richmond, VA
Youth Count – Youth Volunteer Corps, Prescott Valley, AZ

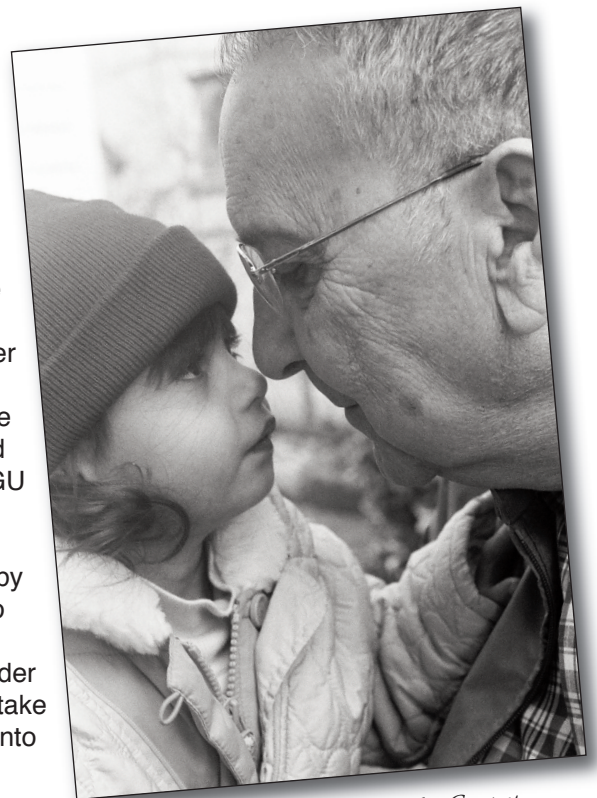
Honoring The Environment Through Art

In 2007, GU began partnering with the EPA and the Rachel Carson Council on an intergenerational photo, essay and poetry contest to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of environmentalist Rachel Carson's life. Entries were joint projects involving a person under 18 and a person 50 or older. The contest's intergenerational approach reflected Carson's efforts through her writings to have adults share with children a sense of wonder about nature and help them discover its joys. GU continued this sponsorship in 2008.

Intergenerational Photography Contest

GU's Annual Intergenerational Photography Contest, with continuing generous support from MetLife Foundation, continued to spotlight the best photographs taken by younger and older amateur photographers of younger and older people together. These photographs capture the power and beauty of intergenerational relationships and convey the important roles that younger and older people play in each other's lives. The photos are useful tools in helping to communicate the intergenerational message and were featured prominently in GU publications and on the new GU website.

In 2007, GU expanded the photography contest by offering seed grants of \$2,000 to organizations to develop their own intergenerational photography projects. These projects brought younger and older people together to learn about photography and take intergenerational photographs that they entered into the contest. The following organizations received seed grants:



*2008 Intergenerational Photography Contest
Grand Prize Winning Photo by Julianna B., 16,
of Worcester, PA*

Pee Dee Community Partnership Head Start, Florence, SC
Daily City Peninsula Partnership Collaborative, Daly City, CA
Under One Roof, Norwalk, CT
Advocates PTA, Miami, FL
Give A Kid A Camera, Bradenton, FL
Fairhill Center, Cleveland, OH.

Generations in the Workplace

In 2008, GU received funding from the MetLife Mature Market Institute to develop a tool kit to increase the effectiveness of Fortune 100 companies to manage and retain a productive multi-generational workforce. The toolkit, designed to move workplaces from 'multigenerational' to 'intergenerational,' included a self-assessment tool, intergenerational strategies and case studies. It was slated to be released by MetLife in 2009, along with new research from Boston College.

Communities for all Generations

With a grant from the Blue Moon Fund, GU hosted a convening for a small group of expert developers of Toolkits/Initiatives aimed at assisting localities, municipalities and individuals in creating communities designed for all generations. The convening took place in May 2008 to gain a shared understanding of the significance and distinctiveness of each Toolkit/Initiative and to enhance and support all the resources available. Attendees identified common language for differentiating the toolkits/initiatives and determined areas for future partnerships in the program and policy arenas. GU developed a user-friendly guide that summarizes the continuum of toolkits and initiatives available at this point.

Supporting Programs in New York and Boston

In 2007, The Patton Family Charitable Foundation approached GU, asking for assistance in developing an intergenerational grant program. GU helped create and administer a grant program and present an organization with a \$10,000 grant to develop or expand an intergenerational program in New York City or Boston areas.

The 2008 recipient, Isabella Geriatric Center, in New York City, a skilled nursing facility, a long term home health program, an apartment residence for seniors, an adult day health program, several community outreach efforts and a child care center on-site, used the funds to incorporate and expanded slate of special intergenerational events into their existing intergenerational curriculum.

GU's partnership with the Patton family was to expand to both New York and Boston in 2009.

Civic Engagement Across Generations

In 2008, GU took part in the U.S. Administration on Aging's Multi-Generational & Civic Engagement Initiative, a three year grant to fund and provide training and technical assistance to 10-12 projects that serve grandparents raising grandchildren, parents raising children with special needs, and caregivers of frail elders. Through a subcontract from the National Council On Aging (NCOA), GU provided training and technical assistance to the projects related to grandparents raising grandchildren.

International Partnerships

GU has been a designated non-governmental organization (NGO) with Special Consultative Status by the United Nations since 2005. In 2007 and 2008, GU continued to strengthen international intergenerational ties with this important organization.

Donna Butts was an invited expert participant at the Expert Group Meeting on Intergenerational Solidarity: Strengthening Economic and Social Ties, which ran from October 23-25, 2007. In preparation, she researched and authored a white paper on the subject which was subsequently published on the UN website. It has been further edited and will be included in a book the UN will publish in the future, along with the proceedings of the meeting and recommendations that resulted. GU Member Kevin Brabazon, GU's representative in New York, participated in the multigenerational subcommittee at the meeting.

Donna participated in the United Nations' Day of Older Persons annual events at the United Nations Headquarters in the fall of 2007 and 2008. In 2007, an intergenerational photography exhibit created by professional photographer Annie Levy and supported by GU, with funding from The Brookdale Foundation, was displayed in the lobby at the event.

Donna also researched and authored a chapter entitled "Intergenerational programmes and social inclusion of the elderly" for a 2007 book published in Spain reporting on the status of the United Nations' goal of "a society for all ages." The book, *Intergenerational Programmes Towards a Society for all Ages*, was directed by Dr. Mariano Sanchez of the University of Granada, Granada, Spain and was published in Spanish and English.

In other areas, Donna continued her leadership role as chair of the International Consortium of Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP) in 2007 and 2008.

GU's Annual Conference in 2007, an international affair, attracted participants from Spain, Iran, England, Canada, Nigeria, Sweden, Bermuda and Israel.

A Call to Innovation for Grantmakers

In 2007, GU worked with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to challenge foundations to operate differently:

- to respond to the changing demographics with an approach to funding that cuts across age divisions and looks at the social and economic needs of our society as a whole and
- to think about economics of scope and consider pooling existing resources to increase outcomes for multiple generations in the communities where they live.

GU collaborated with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Just Partners inc., Grantmakers in Aging, and Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families, to convene a group of leading funders to determine areas of policy convergence that bridge the interests of children, youth, families, and older adults and to develop strategies to promote intergenerational collaboration. GU drafted *Stronger Together: A Call to Innovation for Funders, Youth, Families, and Older Adults*, highlighting the recommendations from that meeting. The document was distributed to all Grantmakers in Aging and Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families members. Additionally, GU organized, promoted and delivered two webinars for grantmakers on these topics, each attracting between 55 and 75 attendees.

National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Online Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center

In 2007 and 2008, Generations United, the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law and Casey Family Programs worked to create and maintain an online Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center, located at www.grandfamilies.org. The Resource Center provides training, technical assistance and research that informs cost-effective policy solutions and legislation. This web site that supports the work of the resource center includes an easy-to-use searchable database of laws and legislation that affect grandfamilies who care for children. The database allows for a quick search of the laws and legislation that address common legal questions surrounding relative caregiving. Database topics include:

- subsidized guardianship
- adoption
- care and custody
- housing
- kinship navigator programs
- financial assistance
- relative foster care
- national family caregivers support program
- education

"It worked out because it was my grandma, and I knew I loved her and I felt safe with her. There's love there."

- Janay, former foster youth raised by her grandmother

Each topic is thoroughly analyzed and is accompanied by a story to illustrate key concepts, and a list of related resources to learn more. In the future, the site will expand to include state policies, regulations, and best practices.

LEGACY Implementation

GU's advocacy, leadership and public education paid off in 2003 when LEGACY – the first federal affordable housing law for grandparents and other relatives raising children – was signed into law. In 2007 and 2008, GU continued work on the implementation of this important legislation, lending expertise to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as they created the Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) for intergenerational housing projects that went out to national and community agencies in 2008. GU staff also trained HUD staffers on grandfamilies and their housing needs, including a national satellite conference that was broadcast nationally to all 51 state sites and posted on HUD's website.

National Grandfamilies Partnership Working Group

GU also worked with Casey Family Programs to convene the National Grandfamilies Partnership Working Group. The working group held a national in-person convening in 2008 which brought together leaders in the aging and children's fields to highlight the groups' collective accomplishments in support of grandfamilies over the last decade and develop a common action agenda for that work moving forward. The group identified both short-term and long-term goals which were highlighted in a written integrated action plan and will guide the future work of the group. Long-term goals focus on:

-
- (1) increasing the number of children placed with relatives,
 - (2) increasing grandfamilies' access to supportive services and resources, and
 - (3) bolstering positive messages on behalf of grandfamilies.

Healthy Grandfamilies Initiative

With the help of MetLife Foundation, GU collaborated with the Strang Cancer Prevention Center and the Community Council of Greater Dallas in 2008 to develop a Healthy Grandfamilies Initiative to prevent childhood obesity by promoting healthy eating and physical activity in households of grandparents raising grandchildren in Dallas, Texas. Six workshops were conducted by physicians and interns associated with Children's Medical Center of Dallas.



*2008 Intergenerational Photography Contest Honorable Mention Photo by
Angela S., 13, Kansas City, MO*

Public Education

Together Magazine

In 2007, GU's popular newsletter Together, which included in-depth news, features and research related to the intergenerational field, officially became a magazine. By the end of 2008, Together's circulation had grown to over 10,000.

Generations This Week

Each Friday, GU delivers succinct, relevant weekly e-news titled, Generations This Week (GTW), which highlights intergenerational news, media story links, and job opportunities. In 2007 and 2008, the reach of these alerts spread from 1,400 to 3,600 e-mail addresses.

Media Outreach

In 2007-2008, GU was able to garner a variety of positive media attention on the breadth of intergenerational issues, including GU's grassroots public engagement initiative Seniors4Kids. GU and GU initiatives were referenced in 45 newspaper stories, 17 op-eds, 27 letters to the editor, five radio stories, seven magazine stories, eight newsletters, 29 online news outlets and eight television programs.

Donna Butts reached millions of households in 2008 with interviews on multigenerational families airing on ABC World News, Fox News and the Today Show. Other highlights included a letter to the editor in the New York Times in March 2008 about the need for intergenerational senior centers; and in 2007, a signed op-ed supporting early childhood education by four former governors of Florida and the widow of the late Gov. Chiles ran in eight newspapers across the state, including the Miami Herald, the Tampa Tribune and the St. Petersburg Times.

Presentations

Throughout 2007-2008, GU staff spread the word around the globe about the value of intergenerational programs with 63 keynote addresses, presentations, and workshops at international, national, state, and local conferences. GU staff directly reached over 3,700 people. Of note was the 2007 GU conference, where GU staff reached hundreds of national and international leaders in intergenerational relations; and training for HUD staffers on intergenerational housing, which was broadcast nationally to all 51 state sites.

"Families have discovered that living together has numerous rewards and challenges for all generations. An emotional closeness often forms from close physical proximity and natural interaction."

- Donna Butts in USA Today, December 2008

"If baby boomers crossed paths with younger counterparts more frequently, both groups would clearly benefit."

- Donna Butts in the New York Times, March 2008

Looking to the Future

In our 20-year history, Generations United's strength has always stemmed from the value of connections – connections between young and old, policy and programs, vision and reality. In 2009 and 2010, these connections will grow ever more important. This report has detailed our accomplishments and successes of the last two years. Now we must strengthen those bonds to ensure that our achievements carry over into our third decade of existence.

Four years of hard work paid off in 2008 with the passage of the Fostering Connections law. However, this important achievement was just a first step. Now we will work to implement the law so that grandfamilies across the country can more easily care for children who need and deserve safe, permanent homes. We will continue to help the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development implement LEGACY to improve affordable housing options for grandfamilies. We will work to highlight the effectiveness of the Seniors4Kids civic engagement model, deepening the leadership base in existing states and expanding to other areas in need of older adult leaders raising their voices for young children.

The troubles gripping the nation's economy – and countries around the world – are sure to bring both hardships and unexpected gifts. GU will be called to be a resource as more and more families bridge generations, discovering intergenerational connections as well as financial savings as they create multigenerational households. The benefits of intergenerational shared sites will grow ever more apparent as communities strive to combine resources and forge connections. However, a growing national debt and shrinking fiscal budgets will mean that some will likely use financial difficulties to divide age groups, manufacturing a perceived competition for limited resources. In 2009 and 2010, we will serve as watchdogs for perceived intergenerational rifts, educating policy-makers and the public.

We look forward to continuing our partnerships with the valuable organizations, leaders, programmers and policymakers who work with us to make our vision a reality: a world that values and engages all generations.



Participants in the JEWEL Program in Mt. Kisco, NY

GU Awards

These awards were presented at the GU Awards dinner on July 26, 2007:

Jack Ossofsky Award for Lifetime Achievement in Support of Children, Youth and the Elderly

Josefina G. Carbonell, Secretary for Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Introduced by GU in 1993 and named for one of GU's founders, the Jack Ossofsky award celebrates the lifetime achievements of an individual whose efforts benefit both the young and the old.

Ms. Carbonell was appointed as Secretary for Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by President George W. Bush in August 2001, after service as President and CEO of Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers (LHANC), the largest Hispanic community based, intergenerational long-term care organizations in the country, which she helped establish in 1972. In addition, she brought a strategic vision to AoA focusing on improving the capacity of community-based Aging Networks to help older adults retain the highest quality of life in their communities, working to increase the health and vitality of America's elders through access to health care, preventative measures and consumer choice.

Generations United Leadership Award for Outstanding Support of Intergenerational Programs

MetLife Foundation

Outstanding Youth Volunteer

Megahn Elizabeth Bufford, South Bend, Indiana

Outstanding Older Adult Volunteer

Martin Rubin, Palm Beach County, Florida

Generations United Grandfamilies Award (sponsored by AARP)

Patricia Elaine Owens, Thurmont, Maryland

Generations United Shared Site Award (sponsored by AAHSA)

Macklin Intergenerational Institute, Findlay, Ohio

Isabel Brabazon Award for Evaluation Research (sponsored by Ken Brabazon)

Westchester Consortium for Gerotechnology, Westchester, New York

Warren Featherbone Foundation Award for Innovation in Connecting the Generations

Sharon Hooper, Gainesville, Georgia

Other Honors

Generations United was awarded an "Aging Star" from the Administration on Aging in 2007.

GU Publications

2007

Fact Sheet - *Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Access to Education (Update)*
Fact Sheet - *Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Challenges of Caring for the Second Family*
Fact Sheet - *Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Respite Care (Update)*
Fact Sheet - *Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Their Inclusion in the National Family Caregiver Support Program (Update)*
Fact Sheet - *Intergenerational Elements in the Older Americans Act*
Fact Sheet - *Seniors4Kids: Older Adult Involvement in High Quality Pre-K Programs*
Fact Sheet - *The Benefits of Intergenerational Programs*
Guide - *Generations United Public Policy Agenda for the 110th Congress*
Guide - *Tried and True: A Guide to Successful Intergenerational Activities at Shared Site Programs*
Report - *Every Child Deserves a Permanent Family: Subsidized Guardianship as a Common Sense Solution for Children in Long-Term Relative Foster Care*
Report - *Every Child Deserves a Permanent Family: Subsidized Guardianship as a Common Sense Solution for Children in Long-Term Relative Foster Care (Spanish Version)*
Report - *Time for Reform: Support Relatives in Providing Foster Care and Permanent Families for Children*
DVD - *Generations United: How We Live Our Lives*

2008

Fact Sheet - *Play is Forever: Benefits of Intergenerational Play*
Fact Sheet - *Seniors4Kids: African American Pre-K Children and Families in Kentucky*
Guide - *Designing Intergenerational Communities Reference Guide*
Report - *Generations Unite for Quality Pre-K: Seniors4Kids Kentucky Signature Report*
Report - *Generations Unite for Quality Pre-K: Seniors4Kids New York Signature Report*
Report - *Intergenerational Shared Site Best Practice Awards*
Report - *Intergenerational Shared Sites: Saving Dollars While Making Sense*
Report - *Stronger Together: A Call to Innovation for Funders, Youth, Families, and Older Adults*

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National Association of Counties
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New York Life
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Patton Family Charitable Foundation
Points of Light Foundation
Public Children's Services Association of Ohio
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The Brookdale Foundation
The Center for Community Solutions
The Children's Home, Inc.
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Verizon Foundation
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Zero to Three

*Generations United would also like to thank
the individual contributors to our year end
campaigns. Please note that this list is
alphabetized by first name:*

Clifton Caldwell
Donna Butts
Ernest Mahaffey
Irv Katz
James E. Rhone, Sr.
John McCarthy
Kevin Brabazon
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MaryLee Allen
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Robert Dugger
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GU Staff

*If there are no dates next to the name,
the person held the position for the
entire time period*

Ana Beltran, Special Advisor

Ann Planz, Librarian (2008)

Anne Tria Wise, Intergenerational Engagement Manager (2008)

Brent Elrod, Program Director (2007)

Claire Wilker, Campaign Manager (2007)

Don Jost, Interim Program Director (2008)

Donna M. Butts, Executive Director

Eliseba Osore, Web and Database Assistant

Jaia Peterson Lent, Public Policy Director (2007), Deputy Executive Director (2008)

John Martin, Office and Grants Manager (2007)

June Conti, Operations and Membership Manager (2008)

Ken Bryson, Director, National Center on Grandfamilies

Leah Bradley, Project Specialist

Lindsay Moore, Communications and Membership Manager (2008)

Mary Dunbar, Office Assistant

Roxana Martinez, Program Resource Assistant (2007) Program and Technology Coordinator (2008)

Sheri Steinig, Special Projects Director Stephanie Harris-Kuiper, Director of Intergenerational Engagement (2008)

Terence Kane, Public Policy Analyst & Community Outreach Specialist (2008)

Thomas Taylor, Special Advisor, Seniors4Kids (2008)

Vicki Bolton, Public Policy Manager (2007)

Wendy Heiges, Public Policy Manager (2008)

2007-08 GU Members

Organizational Members

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Altered Image Ministry
BBBS
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Chicago Metropolitan
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McClain Foundation
National Association of Children's
Hospitals and Related
Institutions
National Association of Counties

National Committee for
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National Council on Aging
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UWA
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Volunteers of America
Westchester Community
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Worcester State College
Zero to Three

2007-08 GU Members, continued

Individual Members

Please note that this list is alphabetized by first name:

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Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson	Eric Joice	Lee Ann Jenkins	Sylvia Rubach
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Douglas Lent	Kerry Strayer	Sheila Mandoli	
Eileen Stephey	Keven Leveille	Steven Durost	
Elizabeth Larkin	Laurie Melrood	Steven Williams	

GU Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31

	2008	2007
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:		
Grants, contracts, and contributions	\$ 931,494	\$ 1,231,416
Membership dues	60,272	110,250
In-Kind contributions		
Investment income	14,081	17,374
Other income	37,831	34,262
Conference		84,421
Net realized and unrealized loss on investments	18,599	11,095
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$ 1,062,277	\$ 1,488,818
EXPENSES:		
Program Services:		
Uniting generations to support children in foster care	\$ 46,217	\$ 351,945
Shared sites and photography contest	264,635	213,866
High quality prekindergarten for all	241,603	229,324
Public education	150,102	91,681
Intergenerational environmental health education and outreach		17,921
Membership	108,071	29,748
Elders as resources	43,173	5,000
International intergenerational programs	55,217	-
Conference	13,325	141,923
Demonstration program for elderly housing for intergenerational families		42,887
Rancho Mission Viejo	-	7,158
Intergenerational Photo Workshop	-	35,052
Multigenerational and Civic Engagement	17,474	
Developing Promising Practices	21,381	
Grandfamilies Partnership	62,004	66,637
Grandfamilies Convening	51,414	
Healthy Grandfamilies	34,629	
Total program services	\$ 1,109,245	\$ 1,233,142
Supporting services:		
General and administrative	\$ 111,004	\$ 35,136
Fundraising	\$ 911	
Staff development	498	373
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,221,658	\$ 1,268,651
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (159,381)	\$ 220,167
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	852,694	632,527
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 693,313	\$ 852,694

* Significant change reflects revenue from biennial conference

GU Statement of Financial Position

	2008	2007
	ASSETS	
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	573,804	680,042
Investments	229,883	211,281
Accounts receivable	15,998	58,660
Grants receivable	6,578	83,941
Prepaid expenses	15,420	13,056
Accrued interest	2,603	2,603
Deposits	13,056	13,056
Furniture and equipment (net)	16,190	21,875
Total assets	873,532	1,084,514
	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	22,937	43,628
Accrued expenses	28,579	25,801
Deferred revenue	126,203	159,891
Sublease deposit	2,500	2,500
Total liabilities	180,219	231,820
Net assets		
Unrestricted	494,033	660,694
Temporarily restricted	199,280	192,000
Total Net Assets	693,313	852,694
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	873,532	1,084,514



Because we're stronger together

Generations United
Washington, DC 20005
www.gu.org