

2012 GENERATIONS UNITED ANNUAL REPORT

Another great year has passed; a year in which the intergenerational community made significant strides in promoting policies and programs that benefit all ages and forge lasting bonds between among the generations.

We salute the work of our members, partners, and friends and look forward to continuing our journey in 2013. In the meantime, we'd like to offer a brief retrospective of some of Generations United's successes over the past year.

JANUARY

- Lauded by **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** for our work on shared sites. The UN also published excerpts of a paper by our executive director, Donna Butts.

FEBRUARY

- Issued a point-by-point response to the **President's budget** for Fiscal Year 2013, explaining how the new budget could affect the intergenerational community.
- Held a free seminar, **Evaluating Intergenerational Programs**, that provided evaluation tools and techniques that really work.

MARCH

- Recognized the recipients of the inaugural **MetLife Foundation/Generations United Best Intergenerational Communities awards** at a briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The recipients were:
 - the Town of Lamoni, Iowa;
 - the City of Georgetown Texas;
 - the City of Oberlin, Ohio;
 - the County of San Diego, California.; and
 - Virginia Planning District 10.
- Collaborated with the American Bar Association in issuing the report, **Improving Foster Care Licensing Standards**, with a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.



APRIL

- Responded to the 2012 **Social Security Trustees Report**.
- Challenged Sen. Paul Ryan's budget proposal, "Path to Prosperity," in an opinion piece by Donna Butts that was published in **The Hill** newspaper.
- Held a free webinar, **Loyalty, Legacy & Choices: Constructive Conversations about Our Children's Parents**, to help grandfamilies ease the burden for children whose parents are unable to care for them.

MAY

- Launched **Colorado Seniors4Kids** in partnership with the Colorado Children's Campaign. This statewide, grassroots initiative raises the voices of Coloradans age 50 and older in support of policies and programs that help children thrive.



- Raised visibility with a guest commentary published in **The Denver Post**. Former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder and renowned author, anthropologist and scholar Mary Catherine Bateson authored the piece, "Seniors4Kids urges older Coloradans to get out and 'play.'"
- Selected as a finalist for the 2012 **Eisner Prize** for Intergenerational Excellence.
- Worked with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to promote their excellent report, **Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Families**.

JUNE

- Announced plans to use **Grandparents Day** in September as an opportunity for all generations to engage in a week of intergenerational activism and activities.
- Responded to the **Supreme Court Ruling on Affordable Health Care Act** and created a fact sheet on the ACA's benefits for children and older adults.

JULY

- Launched a new campaign, **Grand Faces, Grand Voices** to raise the visibility of adults age 50 and older who support policies and investments that help children and younger people thrive.
- Unveiled **Grandparentsday.org**, a website devoted specifically to provide resources, ideas and inspirations for making Grandparents Day a time of activism and intergenerational activities.

AUGUST

- Created and distributed a new Action Guide for "**Doing Something Grand**" for Grandparents Day.
- Congratulated **Donna Butts** for being named by the NonProfit Times to its "**Power & Influence Top 50.**"
- Announced six new "**Programs of Distinction**" for the intergenerational community:
 - DOROT's Youth Volunteer Program, DOROT, New York, NY;
 - The JCA Heyman Interages Center, Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington (JCA®), Rockville, MD;
 - Together Transforming the Experience of Aging, Kendal at Oberlin, Oberlin, OH;
 - AGE to age: bringing generations together, Northland Foundation, Duluth, MN;
 - CATCH Healthy Habits, OASIS Institute, Saint Louis, MO; and
 - The Great Friendship Link, Sunshine Care Assisted Living Homes, San Diego, CA.

"I know for a fact that Generations United was a large part of my selection as a Rhodes Scholar. During my interview, I was asked why intergenerational interactions were important. My experiences with GU events and people flooded my mind and helped me answer their question with conviction. I told them that intergenerational interactions were not just important - they were essential. In addition to serving as meaningful interactions that add purpose to both generations' lives, something I experienced firsthand, the support of intergenerational interactions is smart public policy: both communities have needs that can be met through and with one another. Resources are saved, communities are strengthened, and everyone wins in the process. We are used to talking about policy as a win-lose game. Intergenerational interactions show us that policy can be a win-win game, and GU is by far the most vocal champion of this hopeful reality."

Carrie Ryan, Generations United Youth Volunteer Award

SEPTEMBER

- Issued a call to action for all generations during a week-long recognition of **Grandparents Day**.
- Held a **White House event** that recognized contributions of grandparents and older adults and issued a call to action for Americans to advocate for children and youth.
- Raised visibility with an opinion piece in the Huffington Post titled, "It's Time to Do Something Grand: A Call to Action on Grandparents Day," and co-written by Mark Shriver and Donna Butts.
- Collaborated with MetLife Mature Market Institute (MMMI) in issuing the MetLife Study on Grandparents and a tip sheet, "**Grandparents Investing in Grandchildren: Actions Speak Louder than Words.**"
- Released **Grand Successes** that told the stories of some of the many successful individuals raised by their grandparents or other grandfamilies.



OCTOBER

- Announced, with MetLife Foundation, the 2012-2013 **Youth Jumpstart Grant** designees:
 - Belton Service-Learning, Belton, MO;
 - Boys & Girls Club of Fresno County, Fresno, CA;
 - Boys & Girls Club of the Three Affiliated Tribes, New Town, ND;
 - Cross Cultural Community Center, Chicago, IL;
 - Eastern Nebraska on Aging Offices/Foster Grandparents, Omaha, NE;
 - Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson Troop 1986, White Plains, NY;
 - Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center, Greenville, NC;
 - Mount Vernon 4-H Awesome Adventurers, Fairfax, VA;
 - Our AIM Foundation, Dunedin, FL; and
 - Widener University, Center for Social Work Education, Chester, PA.
- Partnered with several other organizations to develop and release the report, **Making It Work: Using the Guardianship Assistance Program**. Partners included the Children's Defense Fund, Child Trends, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Casey Family Programs, and Child Focus.

NOVEMBER

- Raised visibility with an opinion piece in the Huffington Post titled, "**It's Time for a Grand New Day,**" and written by Dr. Joan Lombardi and Dr. Mary Catherine Bateson.
- Held a free webinar, "**European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity in 2012,**" that discussed the significance of this celebration and told how European organizations planned and celebrated the event.

DECEMBER

- Unveiled our latest report, **Hunger and Nutrition: What's at Stake for Children, Families and Older Adults**
- Raised visibility with an opinion piece in the Huffington Post titled, "**Hungry for Meaning,**" that was written by Donna Butts.
- And farther south, the **Lexington Herald-Leader** ran an op-ed by Bill Perrine of Generations United's Kentucky Seniors4Kids. Read "Ky. Voices: Seniors should focus on saving at-risk children."



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