

2022 STATE OF GRANDFAMILIES REPORT RELEASE EVENT

National Press Club
November 2, 2022, 12:30-1:30 PM

Welcome Remarks from Generations United

Donna Butts, Executive Director, Generations United

Welcome Remarks from Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

Luis Guardia, President, Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

Highlights from the 2022 State of Grandfamilies Report

Donna Butts, Generations United

Presentation of Grandfamilies Champion Award

Congressman Jim McGovern, Massachusetts 2nd District

Introduction of Michelle Singletary, Journalist and Author

Donna Butts, Generations United

Grandfamilies Panel

Michelle Singletary, Journalist and Author

Kathy Coleman, Generations United GRAND Voice, Louisiana

Eugene Vickerson, Generations United GRAND Voice, Georgia

Chelsi Rhoades, Public Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Generations United

Closing Remarks

Donna Butts, Generations United





Donna Butts has been the Executive Director of Generations United since 1997. Previously she served in leadership positions at the YWCA, National 4-H Council, and Covenant House. Butts is an internationally known speaker, author and advocate. She has served on five United Nations expert panels and is a graduate of Stanford University's Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. She has been recognized three times by The Nonprofit Times as one of the Top 50 most powerful and influential nonprofit executives in the nation. In 2015 she was named one of the Top 50 Influencers in Aging by Next Avenue.



Luis Guardia serves as president of the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), the leading national nonprofit organization working to improve the nutrition, health, and well-being of people struggling against poverty-related hunger in the United States. Prior to FRAC, Guardia served in top leadership roles in global philanthropy and international development organizations including Global Impact, The ONE Campaign, and the International Center for Research on Women. Guardia also serves on the Boards of ActionAid, Population Action International (PAI), and Kalanidhi Dance. He received his M.S. in Systems Engineering from George Washington University, his MBA from the Anderson School at UCLA, and his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia.



Michelle Singletary writes the nationally syndicated personal finance column "The Color of Money," which often references the sage advice and lessons from her grandmother, "Big Mama," who helped raise her. She has written four personal finance books, including, "What to Do With Your Money When Crisis Hits: A Survival Guide" and "The 21-Day Financial Fast: Your Path to Financial Peace and Freedom." She is a frequent contributor to NPR programs and has appeared on national talk shows and television networks, including CNN, PBS, NBC's "Today" and "The Early Show on CBS." She is a graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park.



Kathy Coleman serves as a Generations United GRAND Voice as a grandparent caregiver from Louisiana. Kathy's journey raising her grandchildren began in 2001 when her granddaughter Anna came to live with her. Then in 2016, Anna's five siblings came to live with them as well. The personal struggles Kathy has faced raising her grandchildren have shaped her work. Kathy has worked with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana for more than twelve years and has served on the board and as CEO for the last seven of them.



Eugene Vickerson serves as a Generations United GRAND Voice as a grandparent caregiver from Georgia. Mr. Vickerson first became the primary caregiver for his then 5-year-old grandson, Jakari, when his daughter was no longer able to care for her son, and later took in his 16-month-old granddaughter, Amor, under an order from Georgia's Division of Child Support Services. Determined to advocate for the needs of his grandchildren and other grandfamilies like his own, Mr. Vickerson joined support groups like Grandparents Empowered and Project Healthy Grandparents to lend his voice to the fight for kinship care issues.



Chelsi Rhoades is the Public Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at Generations United where she focuses on advancing public policy and advocacy efforts surrounding intergenerational policy and programs, coordinating Generations United's Policy Committee, and educating policymakers on issues impacting grandfamilies. Prior to joining GU, Chelsi graduated from The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs and interned at the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). As someone who was raised in-part by her great-grandmother, Chelsi has a personal commitment to these families and uses her lived experience to inform her work.