



**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.



**Sonia Emerson** is a passionate advocate for child welfare and social justice. She has expertise in kinship care, mental health, racial equity, youth homelessness, and LGBTQ+ human rights. Sonia is a dynamic keynote speaker who drives systemic change through compassionate conversations and storytelling. She is also a loving mother and aunt who cares for her three nieces and her curious 2-year-old. Sonia has collaborated on several community and national projects & initiatives including the Family First Initiative, A Place 4 Me, the National Quality Improvement Center, and the Human Rights Campaign to name a few. Her authenticity and vulnerability drive tough conversations and aim for equitable solutions and pathways to healing for marginalized communities.



**Dr. Joseph Crumbley** is a nationally recognized kinship expert with nearly 40 years of experience in family therapy, training, and consultation. His expertise spans kinship, adoption, foster care, and more. He has provided consultation to notable organizations and offered expert testimony at high-profile institutions. Dr. Crumbley, although retired, continues to engage in speaking engagements, with a focus on the strengths of kinship care. To learn more about Dr. Crumbley please visit his website [DrCrumbley.com](http://DrCrumbley.com).



**Brittney Barros**, who was raised by her grandmother and has previously been a foster caregiver for her siblings, overcame multiple entries into Michigan's foster care system and family separations. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a scholarship and earned a master's degree in social work. She's now pursuing a second master's degree in public policy, with a passion for creating policy changes to benefit young people. Her goal is to work in federal child welfare policy.



**Angela Clements**, a grandmother and a licensed treatment foster parent, prioritizes the importance of keeping children within their families. She has dedicated her career to providing healing services and empowering families. As a Parent Peer Specialist, Angela draws from her personal experiences to support families and reduce trauma within the African-American community. She is also a Generations United GRAND Voice member representing Wisconsin.



**Bob Ruble's** life took an unexpected turn when he was asked by Child Protective Services to become his 8-year-old niece's primary caregiver after Child Protective Services removed her from her mother's care. Bob was the only family member who could care for her. Bob stepped up and became dedicated to his niece's life and well-being. He became her legal guardian. As an uncle, he continues to advocate for kinship caregivers and strives to improve support systems for families in similar situations. Bob is involved in the California Alliance of Caregivers and is a Board Member of Foster Kinship. In addition, he represents California as a Generations United GRAND Voice member, working to positively impact the lives of kinship families.