

Intergenerational Strategies for Community Change
A seminar presented at the annual conference of Grantmakers in Aging
Cleveland, Ohio October 24-26, 2012



Photo: JCY-Westchester Community Partners

Moderator: Nancy Henkin, PhD, Executive Director, The Intergenerational Center at Temple University (PA)

Session Designers: Barbara R. Greenberg and Jan Schwarz, of the Helen Andrus Benedict Foundation (NY)

Presenters:

Ivye Allen, PhD, President, Foundation for the Mid South, (MS)

Barbara R. Greenberg, MSW, Foundation Advisor, Helen Andrus Benedict Foundation (NY)

Jocelyn Sargent, PhD, Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation (MI)

Overview

Moderator **Nancy Henkin, PhD**, described The Intergenerational Center's *Communities for All Ages* (CFAA) initiative, a national effort that brings generations together to create places that are good for growing up and growing older. CFAA focuses on fostering cross-sector alliances, building leadership and connection among residents of all ages, and developing policies and practices that promote interdependence and address issues from a life span perspective. By

building upon the strengths of all generations and helping diverse organizations move beyond their silos, the 23 urban and rural CFAA sites have demonstrated positive outcomes related to health, safety and education as well as increased trust across ages, races and cultures.

During the panel discussion, **Jocelyn Sargent** talked about how the W.K. Kellogg Foundation made a strategic decision to use a more intergenerational approach in its support of vulnerable children and families. By investing in CFAA, the foundation is seeking to promote education, health, and nutrition across generations, while advancing racial equity and civic engagement. Sargent said the intergenerational approach can bridge historical divides in communities by helping people learn about one another and engage in collective action.

The Foundation for the Mid-South, which serves Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, focuses on improving education, health and wellness, wealth building, and community development, said **Ivy Allen**. The benefits of taking an intergenerational approach include increased collaboration and civic engagement, Allen said. She discussed the partnership developed between the town of Itta Bena and Mississippi Valley State University to improve the health of residents of all ages. She also described a group of retired teachers who brought the community together to help keep the local library open and an intergenerational group of residents who started a community garden.

Through its grants in Westchester County, New York, the Helen Andrus Benedict Foundation engages older adults in action for their community. **Barbara R. Greenberg** said that in addition to funding older adults to tutor children in schools, the Foundation supports a walking campaign for all ages, an intergenerational Food Team that staffs a farmer's market and teaches about healthy eating, and the training of older adults to advocate for policies and practices that support kinship families. The Benedict Foundation has formed an Intergenerational Initiatives Fund with the local United Way which matches every dollar contributed by the Foundation. Over the past 8 years, together they have made grants of more than \$1.5 million.

Funding Opportunities for Grantmakers

Grantmakers could consider funding:

- Intergenerational efforts that focus on increased access to healthy food and physical activity
- Advocacy for the rights of kinship caregivers
- Intergenerational efforts to improve neighborhood safety
- Caregiving across the lifespan

Resources (see <http://communitiesforallages.org>)

-Short video describing *Communities for All Ages*

-*Intergenerational Community Building: Lessons Learned*

-*Intergenerational Community Building: Resource Guide*

For More Information

The Intergenerational Center (PA)

Temple University College of Health Professions and Social Work

<http://templeigc.org>

215.204.6836

Communities for All Ages (PA)
<http://communitiesforallages.org>
215.204.4324

Foundation for the Mid-South (MS)
www.fndmidsouth.org
601.355.8167

Helen Andrus Benedict Foundation (NY)
www.habf.org
212.501.7785

W.K. Kellogg Foundation (MI)
www.wkkf.org
269.968.1611

Related materials

USA Today 10/25/12 “More multigenerational households in immigrant areas”
www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/10/25/census-multigenerational-households/1653159/