
PRESS RELEASE

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METLIFE FOUNDATION, GENERATIONS UNITED PRESENT AWARDS TO AMERICA'S BEST INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Today, 8.4 million people live in age-friendly communities, where all ages engage in decision-making, problem-solving and relationship-building.

(Washington, DC) – MetLife Foundation and Generations United today presented three communities with the 2015 MetLife Foundation/Generations United Best Intergenerational Communities Award. The award is intended to heighten awareness of the important role that intergenerational solidarity plays in building strong, vibrant communities. This year's recipients are: **Carlisle, Massachusetts; Greater Richmond Region, Virginia and Greater Plymouth Area, Wisconsin.** A fourth – **City of Surprise, Arizona** – was named a national finalist.

The awards presentation took place on Capitol Hill and featured author and journalist Juan Williams and MetLife Foundation's President and Chief Executive Officer Dennis White along with members of Congress.

"Today's award recipients recognize the value of promoting strong bonds between the generations and working together to create a vibrant, meaningful place to live for every generation," said Dennis White, MetLife Foundation's president and chief executive officer. "MetLife Foundation is pleased to recognize the four communities that have demonstrated forward thinking in helping to create an environment that benefits an entire community."

"When all citizens are valued, it creates a positive environment for building strong, safe, and supportive communities," said Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United. "Such communities understand the wisdom of using the resources they have to connect generations rather than separate them into age-segregated programs and facilities. That intergenerational connection leads to older adults voting in favor of school bond ballots and young people visiting their aging neighbors. Everyone is engaged and everyone has purpose."

A blue-ribbon panel of judges selected the winning entries from among a host of applicants from across the country. Robert Blancato, former executive director of the White House Conference on Aging and a partner in Matz, Blancato & Associates, served as a judge in the selection process. Blancato noted, "It is said you can live anywhere, but that does not make it a livable community. These awards signify that a critical component of a livable community is one that fosters an environment where generations live and work together."

Thelma Collins, mayor of Itta Bena, Mississippi (a 2013 winner), said the award added credibility to her community's work. "The award helped our community see we are moving in the right direction towards a healthier community for all ages," Collins explained. Since the award, "we were recognized by the Obama administration and received one of 26 technical assistance grants to help us get a grocery store."

All of the winning communities showed exceptional commitment to integrating intergenerational practices into all aspects of community life. For full profiles of these remarkable communities, visit www.gu.org.

This year's honorees, combined, have a total of 1.2 million residents, which brings the total population of people living in age-friendly communities to 8.4 million.

For more information, contact Alan King at 202.777.0116 or aking@gu.org.

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About MetLife Foundation: *MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 to continue MetLife's longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. The Foundation is committed to building a secure future for individuals and communities worldwide. Since it was established, MetLife Foundation has provided more than \$530 million in grants to nonprofit organizations addressing issues that have a positive impact in their communities. MetLife Foundation was created in 1976 to continue MetLife's long tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Today, the Foundation is dedicated to advancing financial inclusion, committing \$200 million over the next five years to help build a secure future for individuals and communities around the world. MetLife Foundation is affiliated with MetLife, Inc, a leading global provider of insurance, annuities and employee benefit programs, serving 90 million customers. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, MetLife holds leading market positions in the United States, Japan, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.*

About Generations United: *For nearly three decades, Generations United www.gu.org has been the catalyst for policies and practices stimulating cooperation and collaboration among generations, evoking the vibrancy, energy and sheer productivity that result when people of all ages come together. We believe that we can only be successful in the face of our complex future if generational diversity is regarded as a national asset and fully leveraged.*