
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEVEN INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNATED

A PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION

Designation serves as the U.S. benchmark for intergenerational programs.

(Washington, DC) – Generations United proudly announced seven intergenerational programs have been selected as the 2016 [Programs of Distinction](#). Intergenerational programs are those which increase cooperation, interaction and exchange between people of different generations, allowing them to share their talents and resources, and support each other in relationships that benefit both the individuals and their community.

The seven programs are: **Bridges Program Curricula Suite** (Sudbury, MA), **Easter Seals Intergenerational Program** (Silver Spring, MD), **Lutheran Home Intergenerational Program** (Wauwatosa, WI), **P&J Beacon Buddies Program** (Bronx, NY), **S.A.G.E. – Senior Adults for Greater Education** (Newtown, PA), **Sages & Seekers** (Los Angeles, CA) and **TimeOut@UCLA** (Los Angeles, CA).

“We congratulate these programs for earning this distinction and their dedication to intergenerational practices,” **said Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United**. “The Program of Distinction designation is the U.S. ‘seal of approval’ for intergenerational programs. The application and review process are rigorous. Achieving this recognition is a major accomplishment and says a program employs best practices and effectively serves the surrounding community.”

Generations United launched the Program of Distinction designation in 2010, with support from [New York Life Foundation](#), to recognize excellence while celebrating the rich diversity among intergenerational programs. An outside panel selects designees based on evidence-based standards for quality programming, such as preparing participants, staff training, partner engagement, and use of evaluation data. Since the inception of the program, 32 intergenerational programs from across the nation have been selected to receive three-year designation.

Bridges Together’s evidence-based **Bridges Program Curricula Suite** (www.bridgestogether.org/) unites older adults and children in their communities for shared experiences and cooperative learning. Adults (generally aged 60+) volunteer in a classroom, library or community center once a week for several weeks. Under the guidance of the teacher or trained staff, the volunteers work in pairs to facilitate small groups of students for meaningful discussion and fun activities.

Easter Seals Intergenerational Program (www.easterseals.com/DCMDVA/) creates opportunities for people in DC, MD and VA to contribute at all stages of life through daily intergenerational activities, and helps build a society that

truly values people of all ages and abilities. Located at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center, the intergenerational programming is impactful, innovative, and educational.

Lutheran Home Intergenerational Program (www.thelutheranhome.org) engages children from the onsite childcare center with older adults from Lutheran Home's adult day program, skilled nursing unit, short-term rehab and memory care assisted living. Residents and participants at the Lutheran Home are lovingly called "grandfriends" by the children who participate. The shared site intergenerational programming includes small and large scale activities that have been pre-planned by the recreational therapists, program coordinators, and childcare teachers to meet the needs of participants of all ages.

The **P&J Beacon Buddies Program** (www.phippsny.org) connects middle school-aged youth enrolled in Phipps Neighborhoods' P&J Beacon program and older residents of the Throggs Neck community in the Bronx, NY. The program aims to foster a nurturing connection between youth and older adults in the community by promoting awareness, appreciation and respect for all generations. The intergenerational activities, which take place weekly throughout the year, include talent shows, games, mental skills-building exercises, vocational exploration, and service learning projects.

S.A.G.E. - Senior Adults for Greater Education (www.beasage.org) celebrates and supports older adults as crucial resources to local schools. Located throughout Bucks County, Philadelphia, and Montgomery Counties, the program works to facilitate meaningful and powerful relationships between elders and local school districts, for the specific goal of supporting the academic development of K-12 students. The older adult volunteers work one-on-one with students to provide the extra help and attention that many students need to succeed.

Sages & Seekers (www.sagesandseekers.org) is a one-to-one, senior-to-student experiential learning program designed to diminish ageism, as well as revitalize interpersonal interactions. Meeting once a week over the course of the 8-week program, the participants are paired off to embark on a journey of social and emotional development through authentic, meaningful conversation. Both age groups experience an improved sense of self-esteem, a greater capacity for empathy, and recognition of the worth of others as well as their own personal value.

TimeOut@UCLA (www.geronet.ucla.edu/timeout) trains and mobilizes undergraduate students from University of California, Los Angeles to interact and provide companionship to elders with early stage Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia while providing respite for family caregivers. UCLA students are recruited to meet with individuals living with dementia at a senior center for 3 hours, 2 times per week. During a nine-month period, 50 students provided companionship for 26 older adults, totaling 1,593 hours of respite for caregivers.

[Learn more](#) about what it means to be a Program of Distinction.

###

About Generations United: *For three decades, Generations United 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.* www.gu.org

