

Contact: Lindsay Moore, (202) 289-3979 or [lmoore@gu.org](mailto:lmoore@gu.org) February 18, 2009

## **NATION'S FIRST FAMILY JOINS TREND: MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILIES THAT THRIVE UNDER ONE ROOF**

Generations United applauds the First Family for setting a strong, loving example for American families when they joined the growing ranks of multigenerational households thriving under one roof.

The United States Census Bureau defines multigenerational households as households that consist of “three or more generations of parents and their families.” These types of living situations span all races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses.

As the Census reported, multigenerational households grew from 3.0 million in 1990 to 4.2 million in 2000. As a proportion of all households, the percentage with three or more generations increased from 3.2 percent in 1990 to 3.9 percent in 2000.

“Multigenerational households happen for many reasons, some by choice, some by necessity,” said Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United. “Marian Robinson, grandmother to Barack and Michelle Obama's children, helped care for her grandchildren as the Obamas campaigned. Why, once the race was over, would she not want to remain deeply involved with the girls? This is a decision fueled by choice.”

“Aging parents are also living longer,” said Butts. “They may have planned well for retirement but are outliving shrinking assets. They move in with their children to stay afloat economically in these very difficult fiscal times.”

As in any family, maintaining healthy relationships take work, communication, clear understanding of economic and household work responsibilities, and an agreement regarding the permanence or temporary arrangement of the living situation are a few of the key elements in helping a multigenerational family thrive.

Generations United is a national resource on the topic of multigenerational households. For more information on multigenerational households, or to download our newly revised fact sheet “Multigenerational Households,” visit Generations United’s web site at [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org) and go to “All Publications.”

*Generations United, a membership organization of over 100 national, state, and local organizations representing more than 70 million Americans, works to improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies.*