



2015 Best Intergenerational Communities Awards



MetLife Foundation | **generations**
united
Because we're stronger together™

2015 Best Intergenerational Communities Awards

About Generations United

For nearly 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. For more information, visit www.gu.org.

About MetLife Foundation

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.

"The award honored the work done or underway, but it has also upped the ante for us. We push ourselves to earn the award all over again, every day."

**Amy St. Peter,
Maricopa Association of Governments, AZ**

Acknowledgements

Generations United thanks MetLife Foundation for its financial support of this awards program and their ongoing commitment to intergenerational practice. Thank you to Leah Bradley for her early leadership coordinating this project and Alan King, Sheri Steinig, Donna Butts, Jaia Peterson Lent, Adam Hlava, Adam Otto and Bettina Thorpe-Tucker for their invaluable help with this publication and the recognition event.

Finally, we extend a very special thank you to all the communities who applied for the awards. The innovation and creativity in connecting generations exhibited by all the applicants is truly inspirational. Thank you for building strong, supportive communities for people of all ages.



Photographs courtesy of the award-winning communities and national finalists.

Thank you to our panel of judges who had the difficult job of reviewing an excellent pool of applications and selecting our finalists.

Blue Ribbon Panel

Robert Blancato
President
Matz, Blancato, & Associates

John Feather
Chief Executive Officer
Grantmakers in Aging

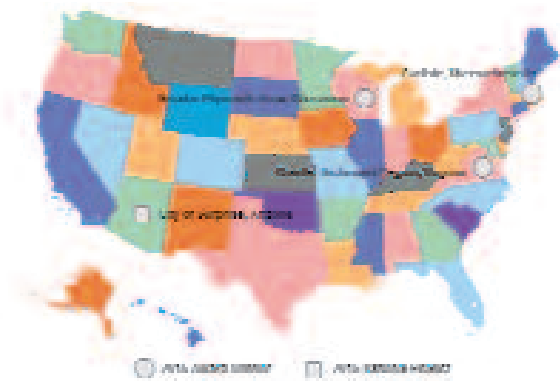
Amy Silverstein Levner
Manager, Livable Communities,
Education and Outreach
AARP

James Taylor
Division President - Health Care
Sodexo – North America

Haley Tsuchiyama
Student, Georgia Tech
Resident of Shorewood, Wisconsin (2014 award winner)

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2015 Best Intergenerational Communities Awards



Introduction

Generations United and MetLife Foundation are pleased to honor three extraordinary, age-optimized communities with the 2015 Best Intergenerational Communities Awards: Carlisle, Massachusetts; Greater Richmond Region, Virginia; and Greater Plymouth Area, Wisconsin. They are harnessing the energy and increasing the productivity that results when people of all ages come together. Recognizing changing demographics, these communities are effectively engaging, serving, and honoring all generations as they advance policies and practices that stimulate cooperation and collaboration.

We are also pleased to acknowledge City of Surprise, Arizona, as national finalist for the award. We are impressed by this community's commitment to intentionally connect the generations and we will follow and celebrate its continued growth and progress in the future.

These four communities, along with the twenty-one communities recognized over the past three years, show what is possible when government, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community residents come together to unleash the power of intergenerational experiences to help people of all ages thrive in their communities.*

Overview

Valuing America's growing generational diversity as a national asset, Generations United and MetLife Foundation created the Best Intergenerational Communities Awards to heighten awareness of the importance of deliberately mixing ages in building

strong, supportive communities. A blue ribbon panel of judges selected the winning entries from a deep pool of applicants. The judges made their recommendations based on standard criteria that take into account a community's own demographics, services, programs and organizational structure. We recognized communities for their specific intergenerational successes, not in comparison to other applicants.

This report presents a brief look at the 2015 award-winning communities. We have included a profile on each community that includes:

- A snapshot of community demographics
- A description of its intergenerational work and
- Quotes from younger and older community residents.

Definitions

The term "community" refers to a geographic area with defined borders and resident populations for which reliable demographic data is available. This could include metropolitan areas, cities, towns, counties, zip codes, neighborhoods, and school districts.

The term "intergenerational community" refers to a place that (1) provides adequately for the safety, health, education and basic necessities of life for people of all ages; (2) promotes programs, policies, and practices that increase cooperation, interaction, and exchange between people of different generations; and (3) enables all ages to share their talents and resources, and support each other in relationships that benefit both individuals and their community.

An intergenerational community is not just one where multiple generations reside. It is one where individuals of all ages are considered integral and valued members of the team. The families, structures, facilities and services that children, youth, and older adults encounter in the community and in day-to-day interactions and relationships reflect this perspective. Partnerships are essential to intergenerational communities and can be between local government, older adult living communities, schools, businesses, local cultural and community organizations and services, families, and community members of all ages.

"The award exemplifies our commitment to providing excellent programming that touches people across the age spectrum and celebrates the unique contributions of older adults."

Ellen Schmeding, San Diego County, CA

Carlisle, Massachusetts: A Small Town for All Ages

It wasn't Carlisle's cranberry bog, state park or its 1,000 acres of conservation land that attracted long-time resident Thomas Dunkers to the small suburb 35 years ago.

It was what he saw during the Strawberry Festival in the court yard of the Unitarian Church. That day, watching residents of all generations laughing together as they waited on their strawberry shortcake ice creams, Dunkers said the sight was picturesque.

"It reminded me of a Norman Rockwell painting," the 81-year-old said. "I fell in love with Carlisle."

That community spirit goes back to the first Old Home Day in 1912. Today, the annual event brings together its 5,400-plus neighbors for intergenerational road races, parade and awards ceremony for its young scholars, older conservationists and outstanding citizens.

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"Once people in town experienced the beauty and power of such formal intergenerational interactions, they wanted more. ... That's when we thought of creating new programs and modifying existing ones to make them intergenerational."

Patti Russo
Carlisle Council on Aging

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Patti Russo, a Board member with the Carlisle Council on Aging, recalls the free pancake breakfast at the Congregational Church – the lines of children, teens, parents and grandparents waiting in the church parking lot as they take in the sweet aromas of pancakes.

"Between the pancake breakfast and the awards ceremony," Russo explained, "residents can deliver baked goods for the pie and cake contest." All cakes are given out as prizes at the legendary cake walk.

The memories are enough to make Charlotte Copp, a college student living in Portland, Oregon, homesick for Carlisle.

"Carlisle constantly has events where generations mix, and that is what makes it great," she recalled. She



misses "the connectedness of Carlisle and the at-home feeling."

The community's connectedness is ensured by several organizations including the Council on Aging and the Intergenerational Task Force.

The Council on Aging programs budget line item helps to support intergenerational activities. Other sources of support include Carlisle and State Cultural Council Grants, the Friends of the Carlisle Council on Aging, the Gleason Public Library and the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest.

Another factor that makes Carlisle an age-advantaged community is the fact that the town's older adult housing facility is sandwiched between the elementary school and the Gleason Public Library.

"We think of ourselves as somewhat of a throwback to an earlier, agrarian time," explains Kerry Kissinger, a Board member with the Friends of Carlisle Council.

The "agrarian time" Kissinger conjures up is one of a town without stoplights and neighbors passing the time at the general store.

"The library is the community center and senior citizens are the crossing guards after school," he recalled. "We love our little town and try very hard to keep it safe and inclusive while still welcoming new and diverse residents."

While Carlisle has always had what they call "informal" intergenerational programs – Strawberry Festival or Old



Carlisle, Massachusetts: A Small Town for All Ages continued

"I have strong feelings about the importance of having an intergenerational community. ... Having intergenerational activities generates understanding and enriches everyone."

Thomas Dunkers, longtime resident

Home Day – such events don't always promote direct engagement between older adults and young people. "Once people in town experienced the beauty and power of such formal intergenerational interactions, they wanted more," recalled Patti Russo, with the Carlisle Council on Aging. "That's when we thought of creating new programs and modifying existing ones to make them intergenerational."

Over the past 10 years, Carlisle established more programs – such as the Community Chorus and Intergenerational Poetry Group – designed specifically to get generations together.

Even still, when Carlisle heard about the Best Communities Awards in 2013, they considered applying, but decided they needed more time.

"The extra year gave us time to assemble an intergenerational task force and thoroughly research what was happening on the intergenerational front in Carlisle," explained Russo, a member of the Carlisle Intergenerational Task Force. "We have a significant number of successful intergenerational programs already, but I believe there is room for more."

On the morning of Dec. 20, she was on her way out the door when she got the news that Carlisle is a 2015 Best Intergenerational Communities Award winner.

Russo shared the news with her family, the intergenerational task force and other town officials. The Jan. 9 issue of the Carlisle Mosquito ran a front-page story on the award.

"I was thrilled," Russo recalled, "the extra adrenaline... made it difficult to sleep for a couple of nights!"

She hopes the 2015 Best Intergenerational Communities Award will get town partners fired up about intergenerational work and build off that momentum for more intergenerational programs like the Carlisle Community Chorus, which put 17-year-old resident Reilly in touch with older adults.

"Each week," Reilly explained, "I would look forward to the conversations I would have with my fellow choir

members and what I would learn from them, both in life and in singing."

Those interactions make Thomas Dunkers, the 81-year-old resident, happy he made Carlisle his home 35 years ago.

"I have strong feelings about the importance of having an intergenerational community," he said. "Having intergenerational activities generates understanding and enriches everyone."



Description of Community:

Carlisle is a town northwest of Boston located in Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

Demographics (Source: U.S. Census Bureau Estimated 2012 QuickFacts):

- Total population: 5,438
- No. under 24: 1,740
- No. over 55: 1,686

Websites: www.carlislema.gov

Current Program Examples:

- Intergenerational Poetry Program
- COA Summer Intergenerational Activities
- Carlisle Intergenerational Community Chorus
- Intergenerational Valentine Tea
- Intergenerational TAP Dancing
- Seniors and Small Fries

Intergenerational Fact:

Carlisle has an Intergenerational Task Force that evaluates the effectiveness of existing intergenerational activities, while also exploring ideas for new collaborative opportunities

Greater Plymouth Area, Wisconsin: Collaborating for a Common Purpose

Collaboration is the lifeblood of Greater Plymouth Area, Wisconsin. Every success story there is about a community pulling together to help all ages.

In 1985, they developed their first intergenerational program after Here We Grow Child Care Center mixed their activities with the Plymouth Senior Center, South Horizons Apartments and Valley Manor Nursing Home.

Today, the intergenerational activities are at Generations, a 28,000-square-foot facility on a seven-acre campus.

Middle school students, bussed there after classes, play board games, Wii, pool and ping pong with the older adults.

Longtime resident, Doreen Salkowski, remembered teaching three teens how to play Canasta, a card game from Uruguay.

“Boy, they struggled, but they felt accomplished when they were finished!” Salkowski explained. “They still tell me how they enjoyed learning to play.”

The Plymouth Intergenerational Coalition’s Programming Committee, which meets monthly, suggests programs, monitors levels of intergenerational activities and shares information to build community awareness.

Donna Counselman, a retired educator, saw first-hand an intergenerational activity transform an older adult, who once held negative stereotypes of teens.

“Sometimes the news makes me think that all teenagers are bad people,” she told Counselman.



After watching 13-year-olds in the Head Start Pals group read to 3-year-olds, she said: “I certainly can see this is not the case in our community!”

The New Year’s Eve “Cheese Drop” is another activity all ages enjoy.

“There is free coffee and hot chocolate for revelers who brave the cold and come downtown,” recalled Marsha Vollbrecht, Generations founder.



The community knew they qualified for the 2015 Best Intergenerational Community Awards.

“We are not shy about sharing successes,” noted Joann Van Horn Wieland, executive director of Generations.

A huge success is Generations, a \$4.2 million building funded by a public/private campaign that brought all ages together through bake sales,

collecting aluminum cans, and a community party with raffles and a silent auction. Funds were raised from large companies and donors, along with a few dollars donated by every day citizens.

Greater Plymouth Area, Wisconsin: Collaborating for a Common Purpose, continued

Generations got help from Donald Krauss – a longtime resident moved by the work for all ages – when he left the Plymouth Intergenerational Coalition, the library and the Plymouth Senior Center nearly \$600,000 in his will.

Additionally, \$1.1 million came from a stimulus grant and \$15,000 came from the State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce, which was established to help with a community needs assessment.

.....
...a longtime resident moved by the work for all ages...left the Plymouth Intergenerational Coalition, the library and the Plymouth Senior Center nearly \$600,000 in his will.
.....

The local restaurants got involved, hosting “Guest Bartender” nights, where adult residents worked behind the bar. In exchange, the restaurants offered matching funds.

When Generations paid off its mortgage two years after it opened, all ages celebrated with a mortgage-burning party.

“We are very proud of what we have worked on for so many years,” explained Wieland, who also noted the Endowment Fund the community established for its intergenerational programs.

Greater Plymouth Area is still in high spirits since the news of being a 2015 Best Intergenerational Communities Award winner.

“I was so thrilled,” Wieland recalled, “that I was hugging people, sharing the news with seniors in our exercise classes.”

When she shared the news at the Board meeting, Vollbrecht, Generations founder, jumped out of her seat and cheered.

Greater Plymouth Area hopes the award will bring more financial resources from existing and new partners for their intergenerational work.



Description of Community:

Plymouth is a city in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, along the Mullet River. It is included in the Sheboygan, Wisconsin Metropolitan Area.

Demographics (Source: U.S. Census Bureau Estimated 2012 QuickFacts):

- Total population: 15,757
- No. under 24: 4,885
- No. over 55: 4,412

Websites: <http://www.generationsic.org/>

Current Program Examples:

- Plymouth Intergenerational Coalition's Programming Committee
- Plymouth Intergenerational Coalition
- Generations

Intergenerational Fact:

Together, the community built Generations, a \$4.2 million building that houses many of Greater Plymouth Area's intergenerational activities. The Plymouth Intergenerational Coalition, which operates out of Generations, guides the intergenerational activities.

Greater Richmond Region, VA: Connecting People Across Generations

After 12 years of living abroad, Sara Link and her husband moved back to Greater Richmond Region in 2010 to be near her parents and childhood friends.

With the community's commitment of connecting people across generations, Link is convinced her family made the right decision.

With over 40 local intergenerational programs, festivals, events and leisure activities bringing together 1 million-plus residents of all ages, it's obvious Greater Richmond Region thrives off meaningful connections between older adults, children and youth.

With all ages being an integral and valued part of the setting, they couldn't wait to share their community pride by applying for the 2015 Best Intergenerational Communities Awards.

"I knew Richmond had a strong chance of winning," said Sara Link, director of Greater Richmond Age Wave, a collaborative that includes philanthropists, local government, businesses, nonprofits and academia working together to maximize resources for all ages.

Link's Age Wave manages CATCH Healthy Habits, designated as a Generations United Program of Distinction.

Through this evidence-based program – hosted by Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging and Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Gerontology – older adult volunteers teach K-5 students the value of healthy eating and physical activity.

Programs like CATCH Healthy Habits stem from Greater Richmond Region's intergenerational roots, which go back to 1984, when Westminster Canterbury Richmond became an intergenerational shared site after including a Child Development Center with its Continuing Care Retirement Community.



Today, Westminster Canterbury Richmond's intergenerational programs bring together children and older adults for daily story time and annual events/performances.

A community jewel is the James River Park System, 600 protected acres of shoreline and river islands running through the community.

The River System functions as an outdoor classroom for all ages to learn and appreciate Greater Richmond Region's history while enjoying mountain biking, fishing and kayaking.

Youth and older adults also engage through the YMCA of Greater Richmond's Growing Younger program, an initiative of United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg (GRP) in partnership with Friendship Cafes.

"Elders in this program are actively engaged in physical exercise and projects with youth, as well as the arts," said Lynn H. Pharr, United Way-GRP chief executive officer.

In addition to funding from United Way-GRP, Greater Richmond Region's intergenerational programs receive nearly \$1 million in combined support from county and city governments as well as public and private foundations.

Greater Richmond Region, VA: Connecting People Across Generations, continued

As a mentor in the Richmond Area Foster Grandparent Program, Doris Hairston sees first-hand how those investments contribute to the community's intergenerational success stories.

She and nearly 70 other older adults serve as mentors, tutors and caregivers for Greater Richmond Region's children and youth with special needs.

"Many of the children served throughout the history of our successful program," Hairston explained, "are now contributing adults themselves."

"We are thankful for the opportunity to be involved, to learn, to celebrate and to strive for more."

Sara Morris
CATCH Healthy Habits

The Greater Richmond Region is feeling the excitement after hearing the news they are a MetLife Foundation/Generations United 2015 Best Intergenerational Communities Award winner.

"We will continue celebrating with Chesterfield County and the City of Richmond as we present a flag and road sign, featuring our best intergenerational designation, to each locality to have on display," said Sara Link, who shared the news with various media outlets and through social media.

Sadie Rubin, director of the intergenerational arts program PALETTE, hopes the award will attract new funding.

Sara Morris, coordinator of CATCH Healthy Habits and Greater Richmond Age Wave, is still ecstatic about the award.

"It will help break down barriers people may have about other generations," she said. "It will foster [more] community collaboration and innovative thinking that is cross generational."



Description of Community:

Greater Richmond Region is located in the central part of Virginia. It is comprised of 13 counties, including the principal cities of Richmond, Petersburg, Hopewell and Colonial Heights.

Demographics (Source: U.S. Census Bureau Estimated 2012 QuickFacts):

- Total population: 1,025,561
- No. under 24: 266,646
- No. over 55: 174,345

Websites: www.richmond.com;
www.seniorconnections-va.org;
www.richmondregional.org;
www.visitrichmondva.com;
www.styleweekly.com; www.yourunitedway.org;
www.connectva.org; www.agewellva.com

Current Program Examples:

- CATCH Healthy Habits
- James River Park System
- Growing Younger
- Richmond Area Foster Grandparent Program

Intergenerational Fact:

As a result of the GeroTrifecta (an intergenerational advocacy group of students, older adults and community leaders), the community developed the Age Wave Readiness Toolkit to empower businesses, local governments, organizations and individuals to provide broader awareness of available community resources for all ages.



BECAUSE WE'RE

TODAY

AMERICA'S TRANSFORMATION

2030

2050

THE UNITED STATES IS IN THE MIDST OF A DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATION.

41
MILLION

people in America who are 65 years and older

74
MILLION

children and youth (ages 0-17)

8% MORE

76% MORE

72
MILLION

people over the age of 65

80
MILLION

children and youth (ages 0-17)



By 2040, older adults, children and youth will make up over 40% of the U.S. population.

We are more racially and ethnically diverse. By 2042, more than HALF of the nation will be people of color.

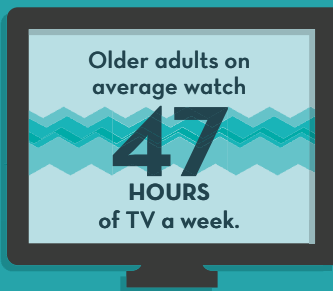
There is a growing racial generation gap. Today, more than half of Americans under the age of five are people of color compared to less than one in five Americans over 65.



CAPITALIZING ALL ASSETS

AMERICA'S YOUNGER AND OLDER PEOPLE ARE OUR GREATEST ASSETS YET WE ARE ALLOWING THESE ASSETS TO REST DORMANT.

There are **72** MILLION Baby Boomers.



A volunteer hour is valued at **\$23+** PER HOUR.

So if 10% of boomers gave up 10% of TV time each week to volunteer, it would generate over...



STRONGER TOGETHER

IT COSTS LESS, NOT MORE

Facilities that serve younger and older people save on some of the most significant program costs (personnel and rent) when they share expenses.



INVESTING IN ALL GENERATIONS MAKES SENSE AND MOBILIZING THE GENERATIONS IS COST EFFECTIVE.

The known benefits of programs that connect the generations could reduce healthcare costs.



Older adults who volunteer report lower disability, greater well-being, increase in brain activity, and reduced depression.



Children and adults in intergenerational programs can increase their levels of physical activity, increase consumption of fruits and vegetables and decrease their time watching TV or playing video games.



Young people who connect with older adults can improve academic performance, confidence and self esteem, and attitudes toward learning.



MIXING IT UP

WHEN YOU MIX AGES YOU GET BETTER RESULTS. THERE IS MAGIC WHEN YOU MIX, EXPERIENCE, WISDOM AND FRESH PERSPECTIVES.

BRIDGING GENERATIONS IMPROVES LIVES AND COMMUNITIES. WE CAN SOLVE REAL PROBLEMS AND BUILD CONNECTIONS AMONG GENERATIONS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. THE RESULT IS LIFE GETS BETTER - FOR ALL OF US.



City of Surprise, AZ: A Culture for All Ages

Being an age-friendly community is a way of life in Surprise, Arizona. Its nearly 124,000 residents have embraced a lifestyle in which all ages work together to grow a community for all ages.

A milestone was reached in 2008, when the City of Surprise and Benevilla, a human service non-profit organization, established the Community for All Ages (CFAA) partnership – which connected nonprofits, private businesses, academic institutions and city officials in a program to embrace the connections of the young and young-at-heart populations.

CFAA provides intergenerational social interactions across all ages, ethnicities, economic status and/or disabilities by improving communication and community awareness.

“This partnership has connected toddlers with grandparents in healthy-eating community gardening efforts and mind-stimulating games designed to support our elders with dementia,” Mayor Sharon Wolcott said.

While CFAA was solidified at the start of the recession, the City of Surprise and its partnering agencies were determined to implement programs and projects to support growing a connection between generations despite the economic downturn.

The City worked with its partners to coordinate events and vendors to complement one another and maximize resources.

The city’s General Plan includes goals that support the continuation of its annual Senior Safety Day, where young volunteers install smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and conduct safety audits in the homes of older adults.

Through a partnership with Benevilla and Rio Salado College’s Lifelong Learning program, the Community for All Ages partnership created an



intergenerational campus in the city’s Historic Original Town Site in April 2009.

The Original Town Site also hosted the 1st Annual Surprise Fiesta Grande event that attracted more than 20 vendors and 15,000-plus residents in celebration of the city’s Mexican heritage.

“Our 75 guests from Nogales, Sonora, provided traditional folkloric and mariachi entertainment that got all residents dancing, no matter the age,” Mayor Wolcott recalled.

In Surprise, they measure success in more ways than dollars and cents. For Surprise Grants Administrator Janeen Gaskin, the community’s sweat equity and volunteer spirit is what sets them apart from other communities.



Their sweat equity and volunteer spirit shine through their anti-graffiti project, which brought together volunteers from elementary schools and older adults to complete a 30-foot-wide mosaic tile mural in the community park.

Over the last three years, Vice Mayor John Williams added three new youth leadership opportunities that include the Youth Civic Leader Program, which gives high school students a chance to sit on the dais as a youth representative during City Council work sessions and meetings.

Since then, the city has launched a 26-member Surprise Youth Council that will work hand-in-hand

City of Surprise, AZ: A Culture for All Ages

with the City Council to recommend youth programs that will support the Council's vision to create a community where young people grow up, work and raise their own families in Surprise.

"When I first moved to Surprise, I was concerned that my opportunities as a young person in this community would be limited because Surprise has a large retirement population," recalled Yazmin Padilla, Surprise Youth Civic Leader and Youth Advisory Commission Chair.

Through the Youth Civic Leader Program, Padilla traveled to Washington, D.C., where she met with her elected state officials and advocated for young people in legislative initiatives.

The experience opened her eyes to how future leaders, such as herself, could make an impact.

"Not only have I been given the opportunity to perform volunteer activities," said Padilla. "But, myself and fellow youth have found Surprise to be a place where we can truly make an impact in our community."

Padilla was also part of a team that won an entrepreneurial scholarship from the city's business incubator, the AZ TechCelerator, to create a locker rental business in a local charter school.

While the City of Surprise is honored to be recognized as the 2015 National Finalist, they're proud of the fact that the Maricopa Association of Governments and Benevilla were the winners of a 2014 Best Intergenerational Communities Award for their intergenerational efforts in Surprise.

The City of Surprise, the Maricopa Association of Governments and Benevilla look forward to continuing to grow opportunities that bridge the age gap.

"This national recognition reflects that our city is truly a community of all ages. ... In growing One Surprise, we champion our residents coming together in support of civic engagement, education, volunteerism and community pride."

Mayor Sharon Wolcott



"We are honored with the finalist selection this year," Gaskins said, "and will continue to find new ways to connect our residents of all ages to grow a stimulating community, that supports the needs of all residents, no matter their age."

"This national recognition reflects that our city is truly a community of all ages," said Mayor Sharon Wolcott. "In growing One Surprise, we champion our residents coming together in support of civic engagement, education, volunteerism and community pride."

Description of Community:

Surprise is a city in Maricopa County, Arizona.

Demographics (Source: U.S. Census Bureau Estimated 2012 QuickFacts):

- Total population: 117,517
- No. under 24: 39,956
- No. over 55: 35,255

Websites: www.surpriseaz.gov

Current Program Examples:

- Intergenerational Senior Safety Day
- Community for All Ages partnership
- Rio Salado Community College and Benevilla's healthy eating program for all ages
- Sun Dancers and Junior Sun Dancers volunteer program

Intergenerational Fact:

Through a partnership with Benevilla and Rio Salado College's Lifelong Learning program, the Community for All Ages partnership created an intergenerational campus in the city's Historic Original Town Site in April 2009.

Impact and Testimonials from past Best Intergenerational Community Award Winners

The MetLife Foundation/Generations United Best Intergenerational Community Awards illustrate what's possible when local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community residents come together to unleash intergenerational power helping people of all ages thrive in their communities.

Past award-winning communities report significant impact since receiving their recognition.

Educates communities

- “Completing the application was an incredible learning experience. It helped us look at our work through a different lens and to discover activities throughout the region that contributed. We learned and celebrated accomplishments even prior to receiving the award.”

Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of Governments, AZ

- “The award impacts citizens of all ages building community and promoting unity.”

Mayor Thelma Collins, Itta Bena, MS

- “The Best Intergenerational Communities award has been a most welcome acknowledgement of the hard work the County of San Diego and our partners have devoted to foster meaningful intergenerational relationships and promote community building.”

Ellen Schmeding, San Diego County, CA

Opens doors to policy & decision makers

- “...helped attract the attention of our County Board of Supervisors, who made the decision in 2013 to fully embrace intergenerational programming by voting to add four new staff positions throughout the County devoted specifically to intergenerational work. These Intergenerational Coordinators work together to implement, promote and provide technical support to intergenerational efforts throughout the County.”

Ellen Schmeding, San Diego County, CA



- “For our county, it helped us with more recognition from county departments: HHS, Volunteer Services, School Board, County Council and County Executive.”

Carol Croll, Director, JCA Heyman Interages Center, Montgomery County, MD

- “We have more local nonprofit boards and community agencies including youth alongside adults in active roles either in board leadership or in advisory positions. This unites the generations and gives youth a voice in the business of our community, while providing positive role models as mentors for our youngest citizens.”

Leslie Janca, The Georgetown Project, Georgetown, TX

- Nearly 100 per cent of the communities have had at least one of their members of Congress attend the award events in Washington, DC and make remarks congratulating their constituents. Others have sent representatives from their offices and/or letters commending them on the award.

Impact and Testimonials from past Best Intergenerational Community Award Winners

Adds credibility

- “The award helped our community see we are moving in the right direction towards a healthier community for all ages. We increased the number of people in our health screenings and a new Mayor’s Health Council was formed. We were recognized by the Obama administration and received one of 26 technical assistance grants to help us get a grocery store. We are on our way to getting fresh fruits and vegetables to our town.”

Mayor Thelma Collins, Itta Bena, MS

- “The award validated the work and was absolutely incredible for morale. People were so proud to be a part of the project and to be able to share the award collectively.”

Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of Governments, AZ

- Every community has proudly displayed the Best Intergenerational Community emblem; used it on city or county websites; included the recognition in funding requests; and, gained local media attention.
- “Reston has always found strength in the diversity of our community and to be awarded as one of the Best Intergenerational Communities was the



recognition of over fifty years of living this philosophy. Our strong foundation is supported by bringing together multiple generations of Restonians to build a better community.”

Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, Hunter Mill District, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Increases collaboration

- “In celebration of the County’s deeper commitment to intergenerational programming, we awarded \$10,000 ‘Jump Start’ grants to six organizations throughout the region to help spark new intergenerational projects and collaborations.”

Ellen Schmeding, San Diego County, CA

- “We began building additional partnerships including one with our local university. This resulted in the university staffing our community’s first summer recreation program for our children and youth.”

Thelma Collins, Mayor, Itta Bena, MS

- “Other non-profits, that thought they knew our programs, viewed them in a different way after receiving the award and were more open to collaboration.”

Carol Croll, Director, JCA Heyman Interages Center, Montgomery County, MD



Impact and Testimonials from past Best Intergenerational Community Award Winners



- “We have strengthened and deepened the leadership for the Arizona Age-Friendly Network. The award we received has played an important role in recruiting the kind of talent we need. The national recognition has raised awareness and credibility on a local level.”

Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of Governments, AZ

Energizes

- “The award honored the work done or underway, but it has also upped the ante for us. We push ourselves to earn the award all over again, every day.”
- “Being selected as one of the Best Intergenerational Communities helps energize us to continue to seek intergenerational solutions to community problems—even when significant structural or financial barriers arise. The pride our community feels at our accomplishments thus far is motivation to do even more and continue to be a leader in this important movement.”

Ellen Schmeding, San Diego County, CA

Builds connection

- “The greatest thing is I was able to refer local folks working on the aging initiative to several (other award-winning) communities already doing great work in this area. Their stellar efforts really drove the thinking as things moved forward here.” ***Linda Meigs, Georgetown, TX***
- “We have the flag next to our trophy case at MAG. Anyone coming into the offices for meetings (and we have many) see the flag and the certificate beside it. It is considered to be one of MAG’s significant achievements.” ***Amy St. Peter, Maricopa Association of Governments, AZ***
- “The collaboration with Generations United and the honor of being selected for the Best Intergenerational Communities Award have increased the visibility of our agency’s success with intergenerational work.” ***Ellen Schmeding, San Diego County, CA***

Intergenerational Communities Resources

Generations United resources can be found at www.gu.org. Other resources include:

Communities for All Ages: www.communitiesforallages.org

Kansas City Communities for All Ages Toolkit for Cities: www.marc.com/communities

Grantmakers in Aging Community AGEnda:
www.giaging.org/programs-events/community-agenda/

Viable Futures Toolkit: Sustainable Communities for All Ages, developed by JustPartners Inc.:
www.justpartners.org, www.viablefuturestoolkit.org

Beth Johnson Foundation Centre for Intergenerational Practice:
www.centreforip.org.uk/resources

List of past winners and national finalist:

- 2014 winners: The Greater Phoenix Region, Arizona; City of Parkland, Florida; Reston, Virginia; and Village of Shorewood, Wisconsin
- 2014 national finalists: City of Miami Gardens, Florida and City of Rye, New York
- 2013 winners: Dunedin, Florida; Itta Bena, Mississippi; Montgomery County, Maryland; and Westchester County, New York
- 2013 national finalists: Chanute, Kansas and Proctor, Minnesota
- 2012 winners: Georgetown, Texas; Lamoni, Iowa; Oberlin, Ohio; San Diego County, California; and Virginia Planning District 10

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