

European Map of Intergenerational Learning

Newsletter – 28th edition

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Ibasha: An Intergenerational Approach to Disaster Preparedness & Recovery by Taryn Patterson

In many societies, an ageing population is often seen as a burden, and older people are treated as liabilities – a vulnerable population in need of care and support – especially in the wake of a disaster. However knowledge and experience from local elders can be valuable when standard systems cease to function due to disruptions caused by natural disasters. The “Ibasha” approach helps strengthen the social capital of communities recovering from disaster events by giving community members of all ages and abilities a place where they can develop deeper connections with each other.



The Ibasha model first and foremost necessitates the identification of local partners from numerous entities, including community groups, local government, international NGOs, private sector, and research institutions. These local partners help to organize and convene an intergenerational coalition to design and implement a project designed by and for the direct community. Since the inauguration of Ibasha Japan, the Ibasha model has been successfully replicated in the Philippines and Nepal. The Ibasha programs act not only as examples of an intergenerational approach to disaster recovery, but as an effective way to bridge the generational divide in any community by working together toward common goals. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Wooln - a knitwear company employing retired women

The online knitwear brand Wooln, created by two young French entrepreneurs, sells wollen clothes and accessories knitted by retired older women. A cross-generational community of senior knitters was created by welcoming retirees back into the active workforce and giving their craftsmanship the recognition it deserves. This year WOOLN collaborated with nine grandmother knitters. All the pieces are labeled with the knitter's name and each grandmother has a [biography on this website](#) so you can put a face to the hands who meticulously produced your favorite winter piece, making your overall shopping experience more personal.



“Being two French transplants in NYC has played a great role in starting up WOOLN. We felt seniors could play a bigger role in the community and be more valued, and as Europeans honoring elders is important in our way of life. We wanted to incorporate that same feeling into our project”. To find out more about the company started, [click here.](#)

[Global Junior Challenge](#) - an international contest organized by the Fondazione Mondo Digitale, rewarding projects that make innovative use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the social inclusion area, education for life, training and intercultural cooperation. The GJC competition is open to all kind of associations, public and private institutions, cooperatives, schools, universities, companies, and individuals in Europe, of any age from all around the world.

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Geekzie supports Intergenerational Links & digital inclusion in old age

Geekzie is a French startup company created by a young business student to break digital divide in old age while promoting intergenerational interactions. It brings together older persons willing to learn how to use a computer, tablet or smartphone and young students who wish to do small jobs alongside their studies. What makes Geekzie services innovating is their intergenerational dimension and their low prices for older adults. The business only started in January 2017, the startup now partners with leading actors of the Silver Economy: senior residence services, town and city councils, suppliers of devices designed for seniors, etc. To learn more about the business, [click here](#) or read this [article \(only available in French\)](#)



An Intergenerational Motion in Scottish Parliament was taken to the Chamber just last month!

Scottish Parliament notes the innovative collaboration between Newbyres Village and Newbyres Nursery in Gorebridge, where children visit older residents on a weekly basis; considers that this is to the mutual benefit of the children and the older residents; understands that, on these visits, the children paint with the residents, are told stories, plant sunflowers, are taught nursery rhymes and play hilarious games, which assist hand and eye co-ordination of both young and old. Congratulations to Generations Working Together and Newbyres Village and Newbyres Nursery, on supporting this initiative, and notes the recommendations for similar projects elsewhere in Scotland. For more information, visit [Generations Working Together](#).



Camden Intergenerational Week 16th-21st October

Camden's Intergenerational week now has over 20 community activities going on across the London borough of Camden bringing different generations together. From an intergenerational Boccia tournament, a multi-generational film screening, craft activities, Bollywood dance workshops for all ages and a mad hatter's tea party, there is something for everyone who is interested in spending time with a different generation to their own.

[Click here to learn more about the activities](#) being added as they arise or contact Corinna - Corinna.Gray@ageukcamden.org.uk



Journal article – *Intergenerational professional relationships in elementary school teams*

This paper examines the extent to which school team members' professional relationships, which provide opportunities for intergenerational knowledge flows, are affected by being part of a certain generational cohort. Data were gathered through a survey with socio-metric questions among 299 school team members in 15 elementary schools in the Netherlands. Findings indicate that generational cohorts based on chronological age do matter in the formation of work related ties and support the importance of focusing on different professional networks since different age dynamics can be at play and school team members of the youngest cohort tend to form intra-generational relationships, whereas older generational cohort members prefer inter-generational relationships. [Click here to read the article.](#)

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Intergenerational News & Events

NDG Celebrates 5 Years as a Model Intergenerational Community - NGOs and community groups – in the constant search for funding - write proposals which require ‘clear measurable outcomes’. This demand often limits and inhibits support for exploration and genuine social innovation. The challenge is even more complex in seeking collaboration among organizations. Part of the answer to this challenge is to create a vision of what could be, to awaken an awareness of the potential and benefits of the proposal. This is the intent behind the ‘faux news’ article datelined 2023. Set in a real borough of Montreal, it is an effort to illustrate what an intergenerational community could be, and what it might take to get there. Click here to read the article/ contact Don: don.in.ormstown@gmail.com



Establishing an Intergenerational Leadership Institute Chapter in Your Locality - A two-day training workshop

The Intergenerational Leadership Institute (ILI) was developed by Penn State University in 2015 as a certificate training program for older adults seeking new skills and volunteer opportunities to contribute to innovation and change in their communities. Beyond functioning as a lifelong learning and civic engagement program for older adults, the ILI also works as an *incubator* for creating and sustaining new intergenerational initiatives at the local level. In recent months, several colleagues from other states have expressed an interest in establishing ILI chapters. Accordingly, we have planned a 2 day train-the-trainer program (Oct. 25-26, 2017) for colleagues interested in establishing ILI chapters in their localities. Information on the agenda, cost, lodging, and registration can be [accessed by clicking here](#).

TOY- PLUS: 2nd Transnational Meeting, Athens, Greece 18-19 September, 2017

All 7 organisations involved in the [TOY-PLUS project](#) had an eventful meeting in Athens. This project, which began almost a year ago is being coordinated by ICDI and is being funded by the European Commission. The Athens meeting was hosted by Hellenic Open University.

First on the meeting agenda was to agree on the 6 dimensions of quality which will form the basis of the TOY Quality Stamp: 1) Interaction with (in) the community, 2) Social inclusion and wellbeing, 3) Learning environment, 4) Professional development and teamwork, 5) Monitoring and evaluation, 6) Sustainability. This involves a supported self-assessment process which allows services and organisations to assess and improve intergenerational practice involving young children and older adults. Over the coming weeks and months TOY PLUS will be recruiting services interesting in being involved in the process.

The other achievement of the TOY-PLUS meeting in Athens was the filming of video lectures which will be used in our MOOC or Massive Open Online Course called: ‘Together Old and Young: An Intergenerational Approach and will contain five modules: 1) Young and old learning together; 2) Intergenerational learning for social inclusion; 3) How to organize and intergenerational programme; 4) Monitoring intergenerational learning quality; 5) Making intergenerational learning last.



TOY PLUS is now recruiting practitioners from early childhood education and care and the social care sectors to participating in testing the Together Old and Young MOOC.

If you would like more information about the Together Old and Young MOOC or the TOY Quality Stamp please contact: margaret@icdi.nl or giulia@icdi.nl

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Open Call for Papers - GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy

The National Research Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren online, peer review journal is dedicated to topics related to grandparents raising grandchildren. GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy provides a forum for quality, evidence-based research with sound scholarship, knowledge, skills and best practices from the field for scholars, clinicians, policymakers, educators, program administrators, and family advocates.

The editors of GrandFamilies invite authors to submit manuscripts that examine new or emerging theoretical conceptualization or applications related to grandparent-headed families, practice methodologies, program evaluation, and policy perspectives. International authors with work that expands global knowledge and understanding about custodial grandparents are encouraged to submit their work.



Forms of manuscripts for the journal are:

- **Full articles (5,000 words)**
- **Research Briefs (2,000 words)**
- **Practice Briefs (2,000 words)**

Email completed manuscripts, or questions about manuscript submissions to Deborah Langosch, Co-managing editor of GrandFamilies at drlangosch@gmail.com.

Kraemer Intergenerational Story Contest

Tell your story and encourage those in your circle of love to share theirs! Participants can tell their stories in four ways: the written word (i.e. story, poem, memoir); Video (i.e. story, song dance); Visual art (i.e. quilt, painting, pottery); Audio clip. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your story!

Creating An Age-Advantaged Community: A Toolkit for Building Intergenerational Communities that Recognize, Engage, and Support All Ages

There is a growing movement around the world to make neighborhoods, cities, and communities better for the increasing aging population. Whether these initiatives are called livable communities, age-friendly cities, or aging-in-place, this important work is opening the door to explore how including people of all ages, specifically young people, can net greater returns. It is not enough to say that communities that are good to grow old in are also good to grow up in. There must be intentional efforts to build connections between the generations. This publication brings the intergenerational lens to these older age friendly initiatives and serves to accompany the wide range of good materials already in existence.

Most communities are multigenerational in their make-up – meaning they have members of all generations. But most are not intentional in their efforts to bridge the generations. Since 2012, Generations United and MetLife Foundation have recognized the best intergenerational communities in the United States. From this work, Generations United has developed a series of tools to help communities become all age friendly. This publication compiles some of these tools including:

- planning tips for communities with examples from successful communities,
- inspiring stories from award winning communities
- engagement and development scales to assess programs,
- self administered community assessment, and
- infographic on why intergenerational solutions are critical to building strong communities.

While all communities are unique, and have varying degrees of resources, every community can start to move from a multigenerational community to an intergenerational community by actively engaging residents across the generations in addressing community challenges. Most importantly — there are simple ways to get this started.

[Click here to learn more](#) about this tool kit.

If you have any news/event items please contact: Julie Melville, EMIL Coordinator