

# NEWSLETTER

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## Message from the Chair

The Maryland Intergenerational Coalition concludes its third year on an optimistic note and with an invigorated vision. I am pleased to announce that the Coalition has received a two-year grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc. Funding from the grant will enable the Coalition to produce an annual conference to showcase exciting intergenerational programs in Maryland, to publish three newsletters each year, and to encourage intergenerational efforts at the local level for addressing issues that concern both seniors and advocates for children.

The Coalition, which includes the member organizations listed on the back of the newsletter, as well as individual members, meets ten times a year. Many of the Coalition members are founding members. I commend them for their commitment and insights at regular meetings and throughout the year. The Coalition's success is the result of their vision.

Coalition members also work on subcommittees to accomplish the mission and objectives of the Coalition. Current subcommittees include Conference Planning, Legislation, Community Outreach, and Newsletter. All subcommittees would benefit from additional enthusiastic participants, regardless of whether or not your organization is represented at regular Coalition meetings. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact me at (410) 823-6432 or at [ceculbert@aol.com](mailto:ceculbert@aol.com).

Thanks to Coalition members Austin Heyman and Ginny Watts, who contributed articles to this issue of the newsletter, and to Laura Stein who helped with layout.

Please help us continue our efforts! Let us know about intergenerational programs you are involved with, or those that operate in your community or county. We want to keep our inventory of programs current so we can share it statewide to stimulate the growth of additional programs. Please e-mail your information to [ra5@mbrrt.org](mailto:ra5@mbrrt.org) or fax it, along with your name and telephone number, to 410 727-7699.

We look forward to your future involvement.

Sincerely,  
Charlie Culbertson, Chair

# Maryland Intergenerational Coalition

## Chronology

### *United Seniors of Maryland (USM) and Ready At Five Partnership*

- Worked to secure passage of State legislation enabling grandparents and other adults to give consent for childhood immunizations (1993)
- Mobilized Maryland's seniors to increase the number of children who receive timely immunizations (1993-95)
- Produced a video highlighting the role seniors play in improving the healthy growth and development of young children. The video features candid interviews with senior leaders, state officials, grandparents, pediatricians and Harold Baines of the Baltimore Orioles. (1995)
- Ready At Five produced Senior Power +Young Children=School Readiness (January 1998) for USM. The report documented the vital role senior citizens play in the lives of children and served as a catalyst for the creation of the Maryland Intergenerational Coalition

### *First Statewide Intergenerational Conference (November, 1996)*

- Intergenerational Connections: Challenges and Choices for Communities featured 12 successful programs -- national, state and local -- operating in Maryland. Coordinated by the then Maryland Office on Aging, with Interages, The Ready At Five Partnership, United Seniors of Maryland,

Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families, Governor's Office on Volunteerism, Corporation for National Service of MD/DE and the Delmarva Foundation, the conference was considered the kickoff for the development of a coalition. A resource guide of all intergenerational programs known at that time was developed and distributed to conference participants.

### *Maryland Intergenerational Coalition (Spring 1998)*

- Initial founders included: Maryland Department of Aging, The Ready At Five Partnership, Interages, United Seniors of Maryland, and the Maryland State Department of Education.
- Coordinated the Intergenerational Stakeholder's Meeting (May 1998) to gauge interest in and build enthusiasm for the formation of a Coalition. Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United (and a Maryland resident) was the featured speaker.
- Commissioned the development of Children and Seniors Together (CAST) - a Senior Awareness Seminar - to orient a cadre of senior citizens across Maryland about the needs of young children and to initiate discussion about intergenerational opportunities and programs.
- With assistance from the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals, distributed a questionnaire to

compile examples of existing intergenerational programs to all elementary and secondary principals and to the early childhood community. Responses were used to compile an inventory of effective practices. Many of the presenters at the May 1999 conference were identified from the responses received.

- Convened the Second Intergenerational Conference, (May 1999): Bridging the Generations: A Community Approach to showcase intergenerational efforts and feature partnerships that promote community-based intergenerational Programs. Over 125 citizens representing every jurisdiction in Maryland attended.
- Convened third conference, (May 2000): Linking the Generations for Early Childhood Development to showcase the work of the Coalition and the program models that connect senior citizens and young children in pre-school settings, libraries, elementary schools, churches, senior centers and other senior facilities; distributed Programs That Work for Communities: An Inventory of Some Intergenerational Programs in Maryland to conference participants.
- Produced first newsletter (February 2001) mailed to over 2200 addressees (including public school principals, Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, Local Management Boards, Head Start grantees) and distributed through all Coalition member organizations.
- Individual Coalition members supported SB 171 during the 2001 General Assembly Session (see page 4 for a synopsis).

## **Become a Friend**

### **Join the Maryland Intergenerational Coalition**

Your **Friendship** will help the Maryland Intergenerational Coalition continue to support programs in communities to foster understanding and enhance interaction and cooperation to improve the lives of children, youth and older adults.

As a "friend" you will receive:

1. Newsletter
2. Conference information
3. Examples of model intergenerational Programs
4. Information on intergenerational program development

Individual \$10-\$25 (as you are able)

Organizational \$250

Make check or money order payable to  
MIG/Ready At Five & send to:

**Maryland Intergenerational Coalition**  
**c/o Ready At Five Partnership**  
**111 S. Calvert Street, Suite 1720**  
**Baltimore, MD 21202**

## **Generations United To Host 11<sup>TH</sup> Conference**

Generations United will host its 11<sup>th</sup> Conference, **Intergenerational Approaches: Not Just Nice...Necessary**, on October 10-13 in Alexandria, Virginia. It will be a rich opportunity for interested Marylanders to obtain information on innovative program models, up-to-date information on public policy issues, and provide networking opportunities with experts.

"Intergenerational understanding leads to positive changes in our society," said Robyn McBroom, co-chair of the Generations United Conference. "This conference will broaden attendees' awareness of intergenerational approaches around the world."

There will be two pre-conference intensive sessions. On October 10: "Intergenerational Programs: Inside and Out" will be an opportunity to learn about a wide range of program models and discuss forming partnerships, evaluation, fundraising and marketing. A second pre-conference session will focus on "Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children." This intensive session will help practitioners, professionals, and policies makers identify programs and public policies that they can replicate in their communities. The cost for each intensive is \$50.00

Registration information for the conference may be obtained by calling Generations United at 202-638-1263 or visiting their website at [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org).

Generations United is the only national member organization focused solely on promoting intergenerational strategies, programs and public policies. Founded in 1986, the organization has provided training and education, technical assistance, publications and inspiration for individuals and organizations serving children, youth, and the aging.

### **Smart Growth in Anne Arundel County: Brooklyn Park Community Center**

Something wonderful happened when the vacant Brooklyn Park High School in northern Anne Arundel County was transformed into a community center serving all ages.

State Delegate Joan Cadden led the charge to revitalize the building to house a middle school, senior center, recreation and parks office, police youth program, and cultural arts facility. While each agency occupies a section of the building, interaction is already taking place in some programming.

The Chesapeake Center for Creative Arts has a beautiful theater, providing a facility for professional and local performing groups. Workshop areas for painting, pottery, dance, etc. are staffed to teach students of all ages.

During the school year, senior citizens serve as "foster grandparents" to some of the middle school students. A lunchtime mentoring program also takes place. Resident artists conduct programs for the students.

**Smart Growth (continued)**

The innovative use of an existing building earned the first place award for "Smart Growth" from Governor Parris Glendening. Brooklyn Park Community Center is a model of achievement and is winning national recognition. It will be interesting to watch this program evolve as the participants find new ways to mingle and broaden the meaning of "intergenerational."

### **Update on Maryland Senate Bill 171: "Education- Children in Out-of-County Living Arrangements - Kinship Care"**

In the February newsletter we reported that Senate Bill 171 Kinship Care was being introduced by Senator Delores Kelley to help grandparents and other relatives raising children because of the addiction, illness, or incarceration of their parents. The bill's intent was to enable relatives, who are caring for children without having legal guardianship, to enroll those children in school and to make health care decisions for the children by signing an affidavit that would be recognized state-wide. Language for the affidavit was contained in the bill.

The bill provided that when a child moved in with his/her grandparent and out of the child's home school district, the "sending" jurisdiction would pay for the child to attend school in the "receiving" jurisdiction. Any difference in education costs between the sending district and the receiving district would be paid for by the State Department of Education.

During the 2001 legislative session, the bill was heard in the Senate Committee on Economic and Environmental Affairs. Both favorable and opposing testimony was given.

The bill was referred for further study in the Senate Subcommittee on Education, headed by Senator Michael Collins. Advocates should contact Senator Collins' office at 410-391-7800 to ask how they can give input on this important issue.

Senator Kelley expects to reintroduce the bill during the 2002 legislative session.

### **Resources for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Resources for Grandparents: A Guide for Relatives Raising Children was compiled by the Maryland Department of Aging, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Human Resources through a grant from the Brookdale Foundation. Topics covered in the publication include: Child Care, Early Learning and Education, Family Support and Counseling, Financial Matters, Health Care, Housing, Legal Issues, Life Enrichment Activities, and Safety and lists useful resources throughout the State of Maryland. This publication is now available on the Internet. To view Resources for Grandparents, go to the website of Maryland Department of Aging, [www.mdoa.state.md.us](http://www.mdoa.state.md.us), and look under "New in 2001". First published in the summer of 2000, the guide will be updated and re-printed in the near future. For further information, contact Susan London Russell at the Maryland Department of Aging at (410) 767-6032.

**Mission Statement**

The Maryland Intergenerational Coalition stimulates and supports intergenerational opportunities at the community level to enhance interaction and cooperation which will improve the lives of children, youth, and older adults.

ARP - Maryland  
Retired Teachers Association  
Maryland Committee for Children  
Howard County Head Start  
Maryland State Department of Education  
Maryland Department of Aging  
United Seniors of Maryland  
DEEP RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Baltimore County Department of Social Services  
American Academy of Pediatrics/MD Chapter  
Anne Arundel Community College  
Ready at Five  
Maryland Head Start Association  
Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Interages, Inc.  
Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families  
Play Keepers, Inc.

Maryland Department of Aging  
301 West Preston Street, Suite 1007  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Maryland Intergenerational

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