20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Intergenerational Ties and Wellbeing

Presented by:
Kevin Brabazon
E-mail: kevin.brabazon@stern.nyu.edu
Intergenerational programs and policies accomplish the following:

- Provide cost effective services to families and communities
- Facilitate social integration by changing negative stereotypes of young and old and encouraging all generations to make socially beneficial contributions
- Encourage efforts to create sustainable communities and intentional communities
- Provide critical services to at-risk populations when formal services are inadequate
This slide show offers a sampling of organizations that provide intergenerational services

- **DOROT** – cost effective services to frail and isolated older adults
- **Mt. Kisco Day Care Center and My Second Home – JEWEL** – merging child and eldercare services for more effective and cost effective services
- **The Jewish Home and Hospital Geriatric Career Development Program** – using young volunteers to improve the quality of life for residents, while providing career development for youth
- **RSVP: Experience Corps** – providing critical educational services to at-risk children promote cost effective services to families and communities
Examples Continued:

- The Intergenerational School – provides a new paradigm of intergenerational, community connected education that is very effective and highly rated by the State Department of Education
THE DOROT MODEL

- DOROT’s 60 paid staff are assisted by over 11,000 volunteers who provide 55,000 hours of service per year
- Volunteers work up to 20 hours per week within every department and program at DOROT
- Volunteers at DOROT include elementary, middle school, and high school students, college and graduate students, professionals, retirees, older adults, and the homebound elderly
- Volunteers often visit and call homebound seniors, perform administrative tasks, teach on-site phone and Internet classes, shop and escort, assist with fund raising, collect food, cook and serve meals, and provide social comfort, etc.
Mt. Kisco Day Care Program
My Second Home

Joining Elders with Early Learners (JEWEL)
A Shared-Site Intergenerational Day Care Program
GERIATRIC CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Connectedness to other caring adults contributes to the mental health of American Youth resulting in reductions in emotional distress.

- Program goal is to provide at-risk high school youth with opportunities to learn about geriatric issues and health career opportunities in an applied nursing home setting, addressing the needs of both college and non-college bound youth, preparing the former for post-secondary education and the latter for non-degreed health careers and occupations.

- Three-year career development program at The Jewish Home and Hospital Nursing Home (Bronx Division) for at-risk youth: Sophomore year through Senior year in high school.

- Youth learn about geriatric issues and health career opportunities through a combination of clinical trainings, lectures, mentoring, and rotating internship experiences.

- 25 Students per Year participate 8 hours a week
RSVP

- Started more than 40 years by the Community Service Society/part of Corporation for National and Community Service
- One of the nation’s largest older adult volunteer programs
- 7,000 adult volunteers age 55+ active in 500 nonprofits citywide
- Uses “transferable skills” approach matching system, where volunteers are matched to assignments based on skills, not necessarily experience in a specific assignment
Intergenerational Volunteer Opportunities – mentoring/tutoring

- Tutoring/mentoring/Experience Corps
- Reading with elementary school children until they perform at grade level
- Students who cannot read, perform well with this support
- Excellent results demonstrated in a national study
Intergenerational Approaches in Education: The Intergenerational School

Pedagogical Assumptions

- A multi-age environment that closely approximates real life produces the best learning.
- People of different ages should learn with and from each other.
- The principles of “best practice” learning apply equally to all ages.

Visit their web site for more information and a video: http://www.tisonline.org/
Important programs and issues to note – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

- Approximately 2.5 million at risk children are being raised by grandparents and other relatives in the USA. This compares to approximately 0.5 million in the formal foster care system [officially in care of the government]

- A study I did three years ago indicates that on average grandparents give up over $8,000 in annual income to take care of one or more grandchildren

- Small scale government and NGO intervention can make a critical difference to these families
Important programs and issues continued – Family caregiving

The Family Friends Program provides caregiving services to families with a child with disabilities. Older adults provide the services.

This provides respite for parents and support for other children in the family who may receive more parental support as a result.

Web Link: http://templeigc.org/family-friends
YouTube Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJNVdCdhEpk
Important programs and issues contd: Community Building

- More intergenerational services are being used for community building.
- Intergenerational services are being developed by groups in the growing number of Age Friendly Communities around the world. These communities are based on the model developed by the World Health Organization.
- Intentional communities are springing up in unusual contexts. Hope Meadows Community in Illinois is an excellent example.
Important programs and issues contd: community building

- **Hope Meadows Community** uses the paradigm of intergenerational communities that are age-integrated providing the framework for development of healthy families.

  - Hard to place children in the foster care system are placed with families who are willing to take several children. All families agree to move the children towards adoption as a permanent placement.

  - Social integration is key to the success

- YouTube Link Hope Meadows Part 1: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Up1XCwP4fBU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Up1XCwP4fBU)

- YouTube Link Hope Meadows Part 2: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uDv8GC697Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uDv8GC697Y)
Volunteer and Intergenerational Services are often Evidence-Based

Positive outcomes for the Aging Field:

- Young people who volunteer with older adults are more likely to choose careers in geriatrics or gerontology. This may be important for generating sufficient workers in the future.
Volunteer and Intergenerational Services are often Evidence-Based

Additional materials are available by contacting Kevin Brabazon at kevin.brabazon@stern.nyu.edu:

- A listing of evidence-based studies of Intergenerational and Volunteer Services