Celebrate Florida!

SEPTEMBER

SHARING EXPERIENCES WITH ELDERS ENRICHES OUR LIVES

INTERGENERATIONAL MONTH

In The Spotlight

Friends Across The Ages, Incorporated is made up of people of all ages who share a common goal -- to establish true friendships with individuals in nursing homes. Friends assists and trains volunteers to visit with nursing home residents on a one-to-one basis, and also sponsors group activities. Friends asks you to give one hour per week visiting a person to whom little things mean so much.

Contact Information:

Allison Blay
Voices Rising is an intergenerational community chorus in Gainesville, Florida. Voices Rising is open to singers age 10 and up. Each season (August to May), Voices Rising conducts two concert terms: Fall term and Spring term.

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In The Spotlight

**URGENT Inc. Intergenerational Project** offers an opportunity for grandparents raising grandchildren, and relative caregivers to come together and share successes, hardships and wisdom while learning from each other and industry professionals about topics such as health, legal rights, education, parenting and more. Geared towards youth ages 5-17 years of age, the project also features youth self-esteem sessions and family outings.

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In the Spotlight

Brevard County TRIAD, Inc., is a non-profit organization. TRIAD and its many organizations and business partners work together to develop programs that address the issues of our growing senior population. Brevard County TRIAD recognizes the benefits of our younger generation within our community working with and helping the members of our senior community. The benefits are priceless for everyone involved.

Brevard County TRIAD has partnered with local schools to bring seniors and youth together. TRIAD’s annual Valentine Project, Senior Santa, and Senior Fest are all wonderful examples of how the intergenerational projects benefit the community. Students throughout Brevard County create Valentine notes for seniors on Valentine’s Day. The cards are distributed to seniors in retirement and nursing homes.

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In the Spotlight

The Florida Intergenerational Orchestra of America bring generations together with music and musical performances. The orchestra bridges the generational gap through music and seeks to foster closer relationships between generations utilizing the orchestra.

Lorraine Marks-Field is the founder and conductor of the orchestra. The orchestra was honored by the State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Commissioners of Palm Beach County, and the City of Boca Raton honored the Orchestra for its “Intergenerational Concept.” Information on the Orchestra events can be found on their face book page.

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In The Spotlight

*Pensacola Senior Follies* is comprised of seniors and is organized exclusively for the charitable purpose of staging an annual show with proceeds, over and above costs, going to benefit senior programs within the community. Membership in the Senior Follies is open to any senior, age 50 or over, interested in participating in the annual Senior Follies performance. The Pensacola Senior Follies (Pensacola, FL) is a tax-exempt section 501(c) (3) non-profit public charity under the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Pensacola Senior Follies are deductible under section 170 of the code.

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In the Spotlight

The AIM Foundation in Dunedin, Florida, created an intergenerational program called Grand Kids. The Mission of Grand Kids is to bridge life between generations through compassion, friendship, respect, and responsibility. Grand Kids’ clubs provide an enriching experience by training and mentoring teenagers to communicate with residents in assisted living facilities and other senior communities. The training includes personal situations to give the students an understanding and appreciation of the difficulties in seniors' lives. The experienced students can become the trainers for the incoming members. This method increases self-confidence, esteem, communication skills, and clear thinking. After completing sensitivity training, the students pair up and choose a grandparent to adopt.

The grandparents are chosen from lists agreed upon by AIM and participating assisted living facilities, The Grand Kids meet with the seniors for seven weeks to discuss topics such as, “How was life 70 years ago without TVs and computers?"; "What type of entertainment and education did you have"; “How did you earn a living?”; “How are things different/ the same?” After the weeks of visits, sharing, and learning, the Grand Kids team assembles a personalized “Memory Book” of their grandparent partner.

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In the Spotlight

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) of the Council on Aging of West Florida is a federally funded program that places seniors, who are 55 and older and moderate to low income, with children who have special needs. Foster Grandparents work in several settings, including low performing schools in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Foster grandparents serve as mentors to children who are falling below grade level, have a development delay, have incarcerated parents, speak English as a second language, or have behavioral issues. Many classrooms lack the variety and availability of sufficient leveled reading books. The Foster Grandparent Program was able to purchase two kits. “Very First Biographies” and “Word Up”. The objectives of the books purchased were to utilize volunteers to build confidence in young readers and provide students with reading deficiencies access to books appropriate for their individual development needs.

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