

# *Intergenerational Messages*



Grandview High School  
Teacher: Mrs. Rochelle Netten  
FCCLA Class 2007

Bridging the Gap  
By: Brittany Simon

There is and has always been a gap between the younger generation and the older generation. I think everyone could make a better effort to bridge the gap and come together as one. Maybe we separate ourselves because we don't understand each other's generation. I don't believe that we try hard enough to understand each other before we make up our mind about people of a different generation.

There are many things that the generations could do to come together, like more programs in schools like Building Bridges there would be more understanding. I had a very successful experience when working with the elderly people. I realized that it is a learning experience for both generations; we learn about the past from people who actually experienced it, and they learn more about our current culture. The best information and advice I have received in my life came from a grandparent so I would say that most elderly people have a lot of wisdom and can help our generation with our future by telling us about the past.

I think the older generations are a lot like us in many ways and understand us better than we think. They have already been through most of the things we will go through, just at a different time. I think it is very important to have a relationship with an elderly person because they can teach us a lot.

By: Megan Appleton

As young adults we often think of older people as insane, old, and crazy. This is not true, as much as we want to believe it. (If you would take the time with them, you would see that they are just like you and me, only they know a little bit more than we do.) I admit I always thought that too, but when my grandmother moved in with us my thoughts quickly changed.

Older people often tell you stories that have important morals to them. The stories they tell are usually interesting, others are kind of blah, but they have good points to them. Sometimes when an older person tells me stories, I wish I was alive back then; I would give anything to pay seventeen cents for a gallon of gas.

Older members of society are not always the nicest, but that's just because they think teenagers are psycho. They think of us just the same as we think of them, like we don't know anything. If they, just like us, would take the time to sit and listen to each other's stories we would learn that there is more to a person than age.

I think that if we all just took the time to listen to the stories we have of our lives, then both generations could learn something new, the older people may not be able to go out and play like we do but, they can learn that we're not all bad kids. Our younger generation can learn that even though we don't want to listen to what they have to say, it will help us as we grow; it's everyday knowledge that we need to know. Without this knowledge we won't be able to survive on this earth. They know all the little simple things that we may never learn ourselves.

I think we should respect our elders and give them our attention when they want to tell us a story. We should not discriminate just because they are way, way older than us. We need to listen and learn life's lessons from them; you never know where you would be without them.

By:Paige Schultze

There are many benefits to an intergenerational relationship. The obvious ones are that you are doing good, spending time with your elders; and you are being a role model for a younger child. Some other benefits are: when you're with your elders you may learn new things about history that you never knew. (And believe it or not the stories are really actually kind of interesting); and when you spend time with your elders, you are making them happy and they can make you happy, too.

When you have an intergenerational relationship with younger people you also learn some things, or be reminded of things you already knew. Children can also bring out the younger, more creative side of you. Children can teach you how to have fun and be open minded. Elders and children alike will probably enjoy it as much as you do. I think hanging out with the bigger kids make them feel cool because I know it made me feel cool.

So as you can see, there are many benefits to intergenerational relationships for you and others. Remember when working with your elders; just because you are a kid doesn't mean they are automatically going to like you. They are people as well; they are just a little older. Remember to always respect your elders. When working with young children, they will be watching your every move so watch your behavior and make sure you are acting appropriately.

## Communicating Throughout All Generations

By: Tayler Mozee

Who really cares if you communicate with elderly people? Well after going to visit with the elderly, I have made a complete turn around about how I feel towards them I would have preferred to befriend those who are in my same peer group, but after visiting with elderly people I have many things to think about. My first visit with an elderly person was someone who was very nice and hospitable. She showed me her room and the many wonderful things she had made.

We teens have many things that we can teach to elderly people, and elderly people have many things they can teach us. There is even a war that makes good conversation with older people. The war in Iraq may be different to us, but to those who have lived through war it may just be another change that the world is going through. I've learned different things from different people. I have learned a new game called "skip-bo" that was so much fun! The people we visited were living in a great facility for the elderly who still wish to retain their freedom and still have a nice place to live. Meeting new people is just part of the living experience. I would like to thank each and every person I met. They helped me learn something new, even if I didn't personally tell them, they did.

Dear Society,

The thing with society today is that our youth do not know much about our past, and the elderly do not know much about our future. We need youth to get together with the elderly because they are a big part of our past. Many of them have lived through wars and segregation. We learn a lot from books but talking to the elderly we might learn a bit more. They can tell us what life was like when they were growing up. They can tell us how they felt when the wars were happening. Just think, when this generation of elderly passes away we may not be able to hear thoughts and opinions about segregation. We may just have to resort to books and that is not good enough. We need more resources than just books. We can learn from them and they can learn from us.

They can learn from us because we know a lot about new technology and a lot of the elderly are willing to learn about the Internet and how cell phones work. Some of the elderly are blind or can not hear and we can read to them. Maybe they just need someone with whom to talk. We can be there for them and make a difference in society by showing we care.

Together we can build a bridge between the generations and show everyone that if we all work together we can make a difference! So get up and show society that we are willing to help.

Sincerely, Nichol  
Anderson

FRIEND By:  
Emily Largent

I met a friend at the last place I would expect; At a place that isn't a nursing home but a home where the elderly are free, to come and go. I never really thought I would have such fun. We played games the whole time. We all had fun and learned from each other. We learned that you have just as much fun as we do. We learned more than we could ever mention in a poem, in a story, or in a lifetime. Friend, I had a lot of fun, and by the smile on your face, I can tell you did, too. It's good that we learn how to have fun. Friend, hope to see you in the future. This was a good experience for me, for all of us. Friend, hope you know that we all had fun and we thank you. Friend, hope you have just as much fun even when we're not there visiting.

Friend.

## From Generation to Generation

By: Avery

Whoever said that elderly people don't have a sense of humor? I have visited with many elderly people and I think they have an acute sense of humor. Many elderly people influence comedians today. Children and elderly influence each other in many ways. For example, when children need to know about something they can go to their grandparents and ask, or if an elderly person wants to know how to use new technology they could ask their grandchildren. People today need to realize that working with the other generations is not as hard as it seems. There are many myths about younger and older generations. Some people say that all elderly people are angry and grouchy, and all youth are busy and don't want to stay at home. Visiting with the elderly has taught me that we are alike in many ways; it is just a matter of age and experience.

Future from Generations to Generations  
By: April Middaugh

Dear Elderly Person,

Hello my name is April Middaugh. I'm a young lady who attends Grandview High School. Motherhood is something that I look forward to in the near future. Children are an inspiration to my life. Being around children brings joy to my heart. Being able to have children is, I believe, a blessing from God.

I have always wanted to be a mother. But so many thoughts and questions have come to my mind. Like, how do you raise a child on your own, if one day the child's father decides to walk out of the child's life? How do you go about getting help for your child, as far as food, diapers, clothes etc...? How do you raise a child if your income is low and you are a single parent?

How do you go to school and raise a child, as well keep your stress level down? How do you keep a job and raise a baby at the same time? Do you have to get a babysitter to watch your child when you go to work and school?

These are just a few of the questions that I have about raising a child. I think it would be hard to be a single parent. My mother was a single parent for awhile and it was very frustrating for her. She had to hold a job while going to school, all while trying to raise three children. Because my mother went through such hard times she has taught us to value education and be responsible so that we will not go through the same hardships she did.

## How the Lice Met Heidi Flyce

By: Ashlynn Thibault

The muffin had lice, Ain't that so nice, This made the mice Get up and play some dice While the muffin with lice, Chewed a lot of ice; While the game playing mice, Had a can of Slice, For which they shared iced, With the muffin with lice. The lice had a thing for the ice But the cat had a thing for lice. The cat chased the lice, From the muffin to the mice Then the mice with lice Ran from the cat who loved lice The dog chased the cat that had a vice, For to save the mice From the cat who loved lice. The lice escaped in a bowl of rice While the cat ate the mice. Now the dog who wanted to save the mice Felt an itch that wasn't very nice. So the dog scratched his lice

Till the cat found the dog had the lice. Then the dog with lice Ran from the cat who loved lice. The dog jumped into some ice But the lice hopped twice, and got free of the ice. The cat could no longer see the lice So the lice danced next to the ice. The cat put a price For someone to find the lice. a frog named Bryce Thought that was nice and asked "what is the price?" the cat stated the price, 5 times that of the mice, for the mice loved to play dice and had lost to Bryce the last three games of dice. Bryce found the lice Hiding among the rice Just past the field of ice Hiding out with Heidi Flyce Ain't this poem nice?

## Intergeneration in 2007

By: Taylor D. Hall

“Intergeneration” is the term used when the young and the old get together and are feeding off of the each other’s knowledge or point of view. “Intergeneration” is a positive interaction between the young and the old. I had the opportunity to talk to several older people at Booth Manor, a senior residential home in the Grandview, Missouri area. I have a great respect for members of older generations. I believe that everyone can benefit from intergenerational communication.

### OLD TO NEW

It is important to try to understand the world that came before me in order to move forward with our lives. Some people think that older people are rude and crotchety, but that is not the case. Older people are able to teach me about world issues that affected them and which influence our world today. As a teen, I appreciate the opportunity to talk to an older person to gain insight into their era of time.

### NEW TO OLD

As a teen, I also appreciate the opportunity to teach older people new things. I have taught older people new games and also about our society. I am able to talk to older people about the war, politics, new technology, and other current events. I think that older people really do want to learn about what the younger generation has to offer. I feel that if we break stereotypes and barriers that are blocking more intergenerational progress we will have a more influential and more knowledgeable society.

## Intergenerational Relationships

By: Anitra Washington

Intergenerational relationships are very necessary. They cause you to see how beneficial it is to step out of your comfort zone and experience differences. Even though these types of relationships consist of two totally different age groups, you can easily find common ground. These common characteristics are what really “bridge the gap”, because it causes one to see how people of different ages are still alike. To have this kind of relationship you have to be willing to endure change and compromise. Although there are common things between the generations there will still be many things that are different. You may have to compromise some of your ways in consideration of the other person. You also have to have an open mind and accept these changes. Being in an intergenerational relationship, you will experience an exchange of qualities. This will only make you a more complete and a better, well-rounded person. Bridge the gap!

Learning Changes in Life by Having  
Intergenerational Relationships By:  
Tayler Brown

The importance of intergenerational relationships is that one can hear about how life was when your elders were younger. One can hear the advantages and disadvantages of being a child back then and they can hear the advantages and disadvantages of being a child now. One can compare and contrast the lifestyles of then and now. When one visits older people, one can play games and listen to them talk about their childhood. In my opinion, I like listening to their stories because they are really interesting. One can see how much society has changed from then to now.

Thank You By:  
Mi'kecia Walker

It is important to have a relationship with an older person because you can learn a lot from them. They have seen and experienced so much. Most of the people I really enjoyed because they had so much to say. Some would tell me how they never had kids or a family of their own. It made me think: will I be like this when I get older; how does it feel to have no children to come and see you and be so lonely; to have nobody for conversation and no friends. And how would I feel if all of sudden, 20 kids came to talk to me and when they left I might not want them to leave because they are so fun and creative and have so much to talk about? I know most high school students wouldn't even come to see elderly people because they think they are crazy or something is wrong with them. Most elderly people don't have people to come to see them are sad, usually because often it was their own children who put them in there. So, I would like to say THANK YOU!! You have taught me so much.

The Experience  
By: Keelan Jones

What do you think about old people mixing with young people? Well I thought that we should be separated. Since I really got to know some older people I think we should stick together. Now I understand that elderly people and young people are the same. Elderly people are not bad to hang out with. Some of them like to play games just like we do. Some young people treat elderly people like aliens. Some elderly people treat young people like we are just bad and out of control. That is not the case with me or the people we went to visit. I think middle aged people just want to be left alone and not be bothered.

When we first arrived there we thought it would be a long day. After a few games of Sorry we felt comfortable with one another. This taught all of us a lesson: Elderly people pick up games quickly and they will beat you bad. They are real cool to be around. A lot of them wanted to know about us more than we wanted to know about them. They told us how things have changed since they were young; how they walked miles everyday. They still remember their pet's names, their school and address. This experience changed me forever. I really like elderly people now.

## The Old Meets the New

By:

When I use to think about the elderly I thought they smelled. Since meeting one elderly lady at a nursing home I feel differently. She told me so much about herself and how she grew up. She is very wise in many ways. There was a man there who actually liked the same music as most young people. The people there really weren't too different from us. It was weird because what I use to think was wrong. The elderly aren't very different from anybody young. The only difference between the young and the elderly are age and wisdom. Now I see that most are just like me and other young people in many ways. I now think that young people should get to know older people because they can learn so much.

The Older the Wiser  
By: Daniel Sherman

The older the wiser The smarter you get. Even though you might get a little sick, Even though the numbers of your years get a little higher; At least you know you can retire. The older, the wiser; Even though you might have to take some pills You know that it is keeping you from being ill. The older, the wiser; The more you can help the youth; You can teach us more ways to make some loot. The older, the wiser; There comes appreciation, And dedication from the youth to value you. The older, the wiser can affect you.

Time is of the Essence...Let's Connect  
By: Ricoya Anderson

For some reason people have it set in their minds that the older generations and the younger generations are different when in reality they aren't. You could learn something from all ages. The elderly have already had their share of trials and tribulations. They are much more experienced in things the young have yet to see. The older generations can teach the youth many things that are really useful. Also, the youth could teach things as well. The Youth could teach encouragement and show determination. Even though there is a gap between ages there is something to be learned, things to be heard and things to be taken into the heart.

Lately our leadership class has been going to visit and spend time with people from an older generation. These people had no idea who we were but were willing to tell us about themselves, and we did the same. I have grown to appreciate the conversations that were shared with the elderly. There is nothing wrong with being in an intergenerational relationship when there is conversation and lessons being taught and learned from both ages. The lessons may be different from the classroom but may be more meaningful. It was really fun, how the youth and the older generation could actually get along while comparing and contrasting their differences.

You see, even though there is an age difference we are all the same in many ways. Value the time you spend with the older generations. Let's link together and have a memorable time.