



SAGE Legacy Fellowship Projects for 2015 – 2016

In June of 2016, SAGE honored the thirteen graduates of our second Legacy Fellowship.

Each fellow defined a community challenge or area of need, and leveraged their strengths to implement a solution. Some projects are complete and others are ongoing.

To learn more or to get involved, call SAGE at 971-717-6570 or email info@wearesage.org.



Fellows receive walking sticks to symbolize their leadership journey, and the wisdom passed down from those before us.

Barbara Bassett & Carol Ann Raphael – For generations, millions of people (primarily women) were trained to use the pen and paper method of Gregg shorthand to quickly write and document information in almost every aspect of both business and personal history. With the digital age, knowledge of this skill and its related culture and history is rapidly declining. Barbara and Carol are working to preserve and record this important part of our past through translation, creating a historical-based book, and other creative and educational concepts.

Christine Brautigam – Parent Vows is a social movement to reduce future Adverse Childhood Experiences Scores (ACES). This program is being developed to make the decision to become a parent, and with whom to co-parent, a conscious and deliberate decision. Marriage vows might not be forever, but parenting vows last a lifetime. Parentvows.org will support this movement with information, education, vow creation support, workshops, examples, and resource references for when things get tough. Deciding to become a parent, and with whom, is one of the most important adult decisions you will ever make.

Claudia Coke -- Locally-grown foods are important for consumers, growers and communities. Claudia is partnering with a nonprofit, Locavore, to help local farmers bring their produce and animal products to market in central Oregon.

Cynthia Lester – Engaging youth in horticulture, the practice of cultivating gardens, helps children develop lifelong skills to grow, harvest and eat nutritious and affordable foods. Cynthia's project is to design and execute a horticulture training program for children in her local school district.

Carol Sweeney – Children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to not graduate from high school. To help children develop as readers, Carol is planning to work with AARP Experience Corps to support reading readiness programs in the Parkrose School District of Portland. Experience Corps taps into the experience and passion of adults age 50 and over to ensure that every child has a chance to succeed in school and in life.

Liz Smith – Portland is filled with proud people who love their neighborhoods. Based on models in other cities, Liz is exploring the feasibility of launching a Portland City Greeter program to connect visitors with knowledgeable volunteers who love Portland and who can build bridges with other cultures.

Mark McLeod – Climate change is a problem that affects us all. Mark is teaming up with the nonprofit, 350pdx.org, to help build a diverse grassroots movement to solve the climate crises. His project is to spearhead an innovative approach to organize climate campaigns at the neighborhood level.

Sean Dant – Getting kids involved in sports is important for their personal growth, teamwork and developing other life skills. Sean wants to help kids connect to sports by building a state-of-the-art hockey rink in Southeast Portland. He's leveraging the fellowship to develop the business model and contacts for this project.

Stephanie Smith – It takes a village to launch a successful community benefit project. Stephanie's innovative project is to organize and facilitate planning retreats (aka barn raising) to energize and support all of the fellows and to help them achieve breakthrough results.

Steve Higgs - Nearly 25% of all American children grow up in homes without dads. Steve's project is to encourage people to honor their dad on Father's Day by making a charitable gift to the mentoring program of Big Brothers Big Sisters so that children without dads can receive the care and support of their own role model.

Ward Greene – In the last few years, student loan debt has soared to over 1.3 trillion dollars. Ward is teaming up with SAGE and Legal Aid Services of Oregon to offer clinics to help young adults learn ways to refinance, restructure and repay their debt and achieve financial security.

Wendy Hitchcock – Wendy is the owner of Hearthland Sanctuary, a beautiful 68-acre farm retreat at the entrance to McMinnville. The land supports an organic farm, art space, wildlife and people. Her project is to secure the financial assistance to preserve the farm as a refuge for those seeking renewal and restoration.