



## SAGE Legacy Fellow Projects for 2016-2017

In June of 2017, SAGE honored the fourteen graduates of our third Legacy Fellowship Program. Each fellow defined a community challenge or area of need, and carried out a solution. Below is a summary of each fellow's project. Some projects are complete and others are ongoing.

To learn more or to get involved, call SAGE at 971-717-6570 or email [info@weaesage.org](mailto:info@weaesage.org).

---



**Barbara Nelson:** Due to the high cost of housing, many students and veterans can't find a stable home. Barbara is creating an innovative service to match people who need an affordable and stable place to live, with seniors who have extra space in their home and who could use some additional help with home maintenance, shopping and other life necessities.



**Crystal Granger:** Girls growing up in Portland are barraged with negative stereotypes featured in the movies, the media and online. To fight prejudice and sexism, Crystal is building a website that features positive and empowering messages for girls, and she's inviting girls (age 12-18) to co-create the site.



**Debra Kerschen:** It takes a village to launch a successful community benefit project. Deb's project was to provide support, strategic advice, and encouragement to help the other Legacy Fellows achieve breakthroughs.



**Dominic Kukla:** Helpers United is a network of people making a positive impact. Dominic's project is to continue to develop Helpers United by offering monthly gatherings so altruists from diverse backgrounds can connect and learn from one another.



**Glenda Montgomery:** The Zimbabwe Artists Project's mission is to strengthen self-sufficiency in artists tied to the Weya region of Zimbabwe. Over the past 17 years, ZAP has helped dozens of artists survive in a difficult economic, health and political environments by buying the artists work at a fair price, selling it in Portland and then using the profits to help the artists with their education and health needs. When this nonprofit was about to close last summer, Glenda decided to take it on and attempt to revive it at least to the point where ZAP had a choice about their future.



**Irene Dale:** Before she retired, Irene actively participated in the March of Dimes Walkathon to raise money to help moms have healthy, full-term pregnancies, and to fund research to find causes and preventions of birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. Her project is to reconnect with the March of Dimes and to reach out to the public through social media to inspire more people to become involved in the Walkathon and to inform them of the work done by the March of Dimes and the aid that is available to them.



**Kristen Grompone:** Our forests, beaches and rivers are impacted by environmental destruction. Kristen is developing a curriculum and retreat to empower women to restore Earth's ecosystems, and to promote environmental justice and well-being.



**Larry Cross:** Community centers help people gather for group activities, support, information and more. Larry's project is to continue to transform his Portland home (which focuses on Aging in Place, Universal Design, and Lifelong Housing) into an innovative Community Meetinghouse that enables individuals and community groups to work together, share inspiration and build bridges among cultures.



**Lisa Rome:** Today, many businesses create value by measuring their progress with a triple bottom line – generating profits, and protecting people and the planet. To accelerate this trend, Lisa is offering a free, 10-minute talk and accompanying workshop to give groups and businesses easier access to solutions that empower them to reach higher.



**Mike Unger:** Engineers can play a major role in creating solutions to climate change. With that in mind, Mike co-founded Engineers for a Sustainable Future, and he's working to build the group's membership so that more engineers can advance climate change education and advocacy initiatives.



**Molly Ainsley:** One of the biggest challenges in combating homelessness and hunger is that people of means seem unaware of the trauma that comes with losing everything. Molly is writing a book about the Zen of loving kindness towards the hungry that draws on her own experiences of people who have prepared delicious food for her and the joy that comes from serving others.



**Olivia Guethling:** Around the world, women face adversity and social constraints that limit their full potential. Olivia is creating an artistic production incorporating her experience in boxing to inspire women to speak up, take more risks, and expand their horizons.



**Steve Higgs:** There are hundreds of solutions to tackle climate change, but communities are slow to adopt them due to funding limits, including legal costs. Steve's project is to help overcome these challenges by framing pro bono legal projects that lawyers can manage to accelerate these solutions.



**Sylvia Ayala:** Girls thrive when given leadership opportunities and training. As a fellow, Sylvia became involved in a program to encourage girls to invest in themselves and to achieve the Girl Scout's Gold Award, the organization's highest honor.