



SAGE Legacy Fellow Projects for 2017-2018

In June of 2018, SAGE honored the thirteen graduates of our fourth Legacy Fellowship. Each fellow defined a community challenge or area of need and carried out a solution. Below is a summary of each fellow's project.

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



John Daggett. One of the most difficult times in a student's life is the transition between high school and college. John is raising funds and coordinating services for PDX Bridge, a collaborative initiative to propel Portland area foster, juvenile justice, and homeless youth onto a pathway from high school to and through their first year of college. Working with others, John is helping young adults who are living on the margins to improve their lives and reach their full potential.



Julia Gisler. Sugar, fat, salt, artificial flavors, and unpronounceable chemicals are integral to our modern food system. Julia plans to lead community conversations about the impact of our industrialized foods on public health and our environment. By challenging our assumptions about what is "food" she hopes to help people be more informed consumers as they feed themselves and their families.



Team Project: Jonathan Harker & Chip Hudson. The City of Portland and Multnomah County have a detailed Climate Action Plan, but the plan doesn't implement itself. With advice from community leaders, Jonathan and Chip are developing a Climate Guide Pilot Program to inspire and support neighbors to engage more deeply in local efforts and neighborhood projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change effects, while reducing disparities and increasing opportunities for the more vulnerable communities of color, low-income and immigrant populations.



Amy Higgs. The Eco-School Network equips parents to lead the change toward sustainable schools in Oregon and gives young people opportunities to practice environmental and social responsibility. Students walk and bike to school in groups, eat vegetables they planted, create nature play spaces, divert lunch waste from landfills, and launch sustainability projects of their own design. Amy is developing and implementing a plan to guide the organization through an exciting new phase. Her efforts aim to boost the ability of parents and students to shape sustainable, equitable, and vibrant communities - both within their schools and beyond school walls.



Holly Meyer. The best way to connect with nature is to experience it. But it can be difficult for people living in cities to get outside, and to develop the deep love for nature necessary to form an *active* interest in protecting the outdoors. Holly is launching *Being There Café*, a one-of-a-kind café where guests can sip coffee surrounded by images and sounds of beautiful natural areas – Oregon’s night sky, its waterfalls, beaches and mountains. Local environmental projects will be promoted to offer “hands-on” engagement and profits from the café will go to protect these places.



Kitty Kaping. Volunteers are the lifeblood of most nonprofits – providing their skills and leadership experience as hands-on help and community connections. Kitty is working with SAGE to develop a comprehensive Volunteer Engagement Program that will help the organization to more effectively recruit, engage, support, celebrate and retain volunteers. Through her program guidance, SAGE will be able to more strategically expand its programs, engage more people in meaningful service roles, and build community through deepening relationships with their volunteers, community partners and supporters.



Gayle Palmer. We need community members to organize and support sustainability efforts in our outer East Portland community, and in our neighborhoods schools, and businesses. Gayle’s project is to promote sustainability initiatives in the Centennial Neighborhood of East Portland by organizing events and activities that feature local groups working to advance the City’s Climate Action Plan, develop a Community Green Network to collaborate on and to highlight the many ways community members can engage with each other.



Terence Shumaker. One of the rewards of working with youth is the opportunity to connect people to new opportunities for growth and development. Terence is leveraging his know-how as a teacher and Master Recycler to engage youth with special needs in activities and projects to help in their daily living skills, job and work functions, and to assist the school to reduce waste and promote recycling. In partnership with the Arts and Technology High School in Wilsonville, he hopes to play a role to help these students learn more about resource conservation and recovery, and to pursue volunteer work and jobs in the field.



Abigail Singer. We live in challenging and extraordinary times, tasked with bearing witness to the unprecedented destruction of our ecological and social systems. For those of us engaged in Earth-sustaining, justice-seeking, and change-making work, it is critical to develop skills and practices to care for our hearts, weather the storms and grow our capacity to navigate the times we live in with purpose and compassion. Abigail is facilitating spaces for people who are socially engaged to process our grief for the state of the world in order to be more present, engaged, and powerful forces for change.



Sami Springs. Kids are healthier and more focused when they can play outside. Sami is working closely with The Intertwine Alliance and Portland Public Schools to create more nature-based schoolyards that feature nature play, gardens and habitat for plants and animals. Her work focuses on schools with limited resources so more students can experience the health and educational benefits from the outdoors.



Trisha Schultz. A community garden does more than provide food security, it is a pathway for personal growth, economic empowerment and nurtures social confidence and community. Trisha plans to support multi-family housing managers and residents in low-income and communities of color to create space to develop gardens to grow organic, healthy and culturally significant food. Trisha will foster strong bonds between residents and work together to grow, preserve and cook healthy, organic food.



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.