



SAGE Giving Forward

Senior Advocates for Generational Equity

Annual Report for 2014-2015

Giving Forward

Raising Awareness

Inspiring Innovation

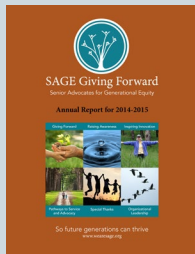


Pathways to Service and Advocacy

Special Thanks

Organizational Leadership

So future generations can thrive
www.wearesage.org



Giving Forward to Younger and Future Generations

SAGE is a community of advocates who advance generational equity—the principle that each generation should improve the quality of life for the next. Together, we each commit to serve, give or advocate to strengthen education, restore the environment, and build financial security for coming generations.

This annual report reflects on what we have learned and the ways in which our work has inspired people to give forward. We are proud of our accomplishments, but recognize that the educational, environmental, and economic challenges facing younger and future generations are serious, urgent, and need greater attention.

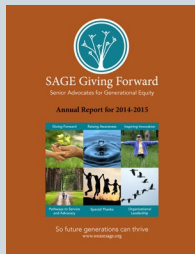
As we look to 2016 and beyond, we promise to raise awareness about these challenges, inspire innovation and train community leaders to address them. We extend our deepest thanks to the hundreds of people and organizations who help us improve the quality of life for coming generations. Thank you for giving forward.



Ward Greene, *Founder/President*



Steve Higgs, *Executive Director*



Our Mission

SAGE inspires people over fifty to give forward with their time, talent and passion to enable younger and future generations to thrive. We motivate action and volunteerism through grassroots conversations and leadership development.

People over fifty have energy, wisdom and resources that are vital to the well-being of our communities. We encourage older adults to serve, give and advocate for causes and nonprofit programs that directly address educational, environmental, and economic challenges facing coming generations.

Our Goals

Since 2011, more than 2,000 people have participated in SAGE's programs to inspire people to give forward.

Over the next three years, our primary goal is to engage 1,000 SAGE Members who commit to give, serve, or advocate for younger and future generations. We have three strategies and programs where we concentrated this year:



Raising awareness about challenges facing the future.

- Hosted two Visiting SAGE events with Nicholas Kristof and Robert Putnam (over 1200 guests).
- Led 16 stewardship meetings and presentations with 250 participants to spark conversations and action for generational equity.



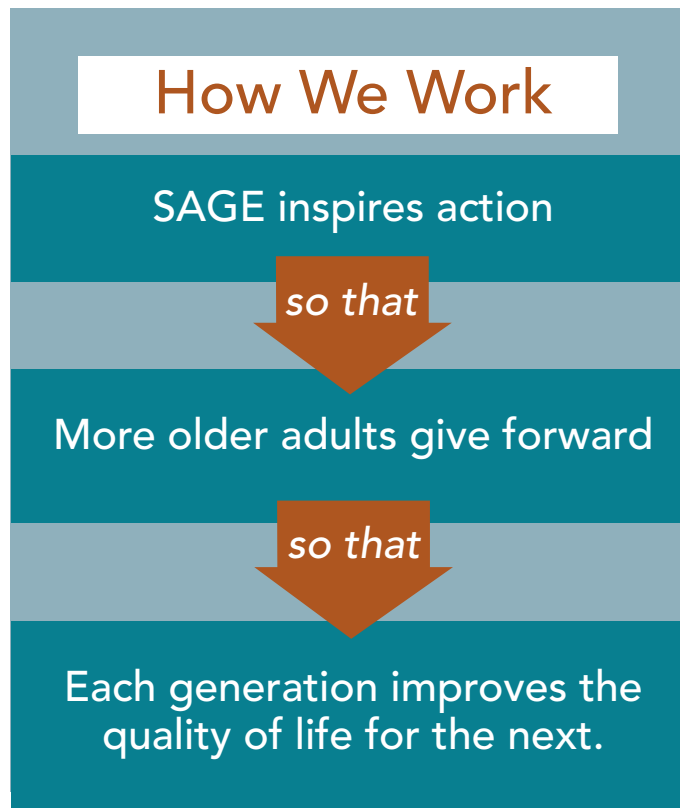
Inspiring leadership and innovation to address those challenges.

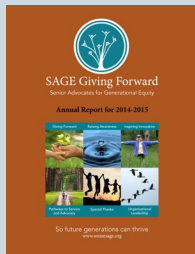
- Trained 14 Legacy Fellows to carry out service projects of their own design.
- Developed and led two new workshops, Giving Forward and Navigating Retirement, to share strategies for giving with one's time, money and voice.



Connecting people with resources and pathways to give forward.

- Featured inspiring stories of volunteers who also serve as peer-to-peer mentors.
- Promoted service and advocacy roles with 20 nonprofit organizations working on education, environmental, and economic causes.





Raising awareness about challenges facing the future.

Visiting SAGE

Through our Visiting SAGE program, we hosted two keynote speakers to inspire people to make the world a better place. With over 750 guests, human rights champion, Nicholas Kristof, showed us how even small gifts of time and money add up to the millions of drops that fill buckets and change lives.

Nearly 500 guests also joined us to hear one of the most influential teachers in the world – Robert Putnam. Putnam spoke about his new bestseller, *Our Kids*, which looks at the growing barriers to upward mobility and ways we can work to restore the promise of the American Dream.

Top: Nicholas Kristof shares stories about how we find purpose by connecting to a cause larger than ourselves.

Middle: Robert Putnam highlights evidence of the growing opportunity gap in our country, and solutions to restore the American Dream.



Stewardship Conversations

To complement our major events, SAGE leads small group discussions and presentations in living rooms, businesses and other locales to spark conversations about our community's future.

Since 2012, we have hosted over 30 of these events with nearly 500 participants. This year, SAGE began to offer Focus Groups to spotlight solutions to major issues of concern like burgeoning student loan debt, the rapid extinction of species, and climate change.

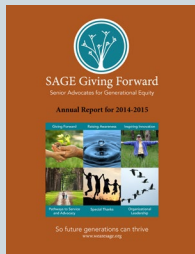
Through these conversations, we feature service and advocacy roles with over 20 nonprofit partners working on education, environmental, and economic causes.



I came to the Social thinking: okay, what do you want me to do? Then I realized that SAGE isn't here to tell me what to do. They want me to figure that out, so that I can improve opportunities for the next generation.

– Karen Paladino, SAGE Socials

Stewardship conversations spark dialogues about the greatest challenges facing coming generations, and ways we can make a difference.



Inspiring leadership and innovation to find solutions.

Legacy Fellowship

SAGE honored the first fourteen graduates of the Legacy Fellowship, a nine-month leadership program to inspire individuals and teams to carry out community benefit projects of their own design.

With the support of a coach and expert advisors, each fellow defined a community challenge or area of need, and leveraged his or her strengths to implement a solution. Together, fellows demonstrate how citizen initiatives strengthen communities and improve our world.

Our first fourteen Legacy Fellow Projects:

Alcina Anthony & Mark Howe – Developing an employment internship for young adults with a drug-related felony to help them get a second chance in life.

Andrew Ragland – Built a coalition of business and non-profit partners to raise awareness about the benefits of solar power and to promote residential solar installations.

Deb Child & Fran Finney – Volunteered for the nonprofit, Outside In, to support and enhance services for transgender youth experiencing homelessness.

Connie McDonald & Cynthia Lester – Led therapeutic workshops for women experiencing homelessness to help them get back on their feet.

Elizabeth Smith – Launched “Fairy Dog Parents” to connect seniors who love dogs with dog owners who need help watching their dogs during the day.



Mena Ravassipour
Engaged local experts and residents in her residential community to help others by sharing tools, knowledge, and expertise.

Mary Louise Warhus
Connected with higher education institutions to explore student internship options for non-native English speakers to expand opportunities.

Legacy Fellows design worthwhile projects that benefit younger and future generations.

Mike Unger - Built the membership of Engineers for Sustainable Future to leverage the knowledge of engineers to address challenges facing the future.

Robert Dale – Created a website to feature the ceramics of artist Ben Sams, once described by Time Magazine as the foremost young ceramic artist in the country.

Roberta Schwarz - Raising \$1,000,000 to acquire and protect a six-acre parcel of rare White Oak Savanna and to combine with another park.

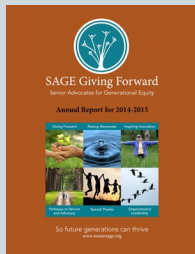
Ward Greene - Developing “Give Forward Day” to provide seniors an easy way to donate their senior discounts at grocery stores to nonprofit organizations that help kids.



Legacy Fellows received walking sticks to symbolize the wisdom and leadership passed down from those who came before us.

“The Legacy Fellowship is an outstanding method of learning, incorporating, and practicing leadership skills that can be applied both in the work and the volunteer world.”

–Fran Finney, Legacy Fellow



Connecting people with resources to give forward.

Workshops and Peer Advisors

SAGE regularly connects with people seeking advice on effective ways to give forward. This year, we developed two workshops—giving forward and navigating retirement—to highlight strategies and tools to serve, give and advocate for the greater good. In addition to providing opportunities for learning and networking, we raise awareness about meaningful service and advocacy roles with several non-profit organizations.

To date, we have also published ten stories about our Sages—exemplary volunteers who champion local causes and who are available as mentors. These Sages demonstrate the many ways that older adults can give forward by serving as board members, training young adults, forming giving circles, and influencing policy.



Advocates are encouraged to join together and march in support of action on climate change.



Working with partners, Roberta Schwarz raised \$1.8 million to acquire fourteen acres of parkland, and as a Legacy Fellow, she's working to raise another \$1 million to make it a twenty-acre park. While leading her initiative, she's also advising others on conservation fundraising.

Spotlights on New Initiatives

Ambassadors for Future Generations

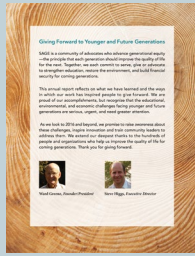
SAGE is working with an all-volunteer team of Ambassadors who facilitate thoughtful, one-on-one discussions with seniors about ways to give, serve or advocate for younger and future generations. Ambassadors also highlight pathways for older adults to get involved in causes and nonprofit programs that benefit coming generations, and share the rewards of joining SAGE. Contact us if you are interested in meeting with an Ambassador.

Guardians for Future Generations

We are collaborating with law students and advisors to explore the role of a Guardian for Future Generations to advocate for the interests of future generations. For example, the Guardian may publish impact statements on today's policy proposals, highlighting the long-term benefits and costs. Looking ahead, SAGE will offer focus groups on the role of a Guardian to represent future generations and to inject long-term thinking into policymaking.

Thank you the wonderful Giving Forward workshop. I very much enjoyed brainstorming volunteerism with like-minded Boomers. Maybe we will change the world after all.

– Vici Wolff



Special Thanks for Giving Forward

Senior Advocates for Generational Equity greatly appreciates gifts of time, money and expertise from all of our supporters. The individuals, foundations, businesses, and organizations below supported our work between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

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Matt Sweeney
Diane Wehage

Guardians for Future Generations

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Alexander Liberman
Jesse Matsukawa



FOUNDATION & BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Special thanks to these foundations and businesses for their major support for SAGE this year.



Some of Our Program Sponsors and Partners

Visiting SAGE and Legacy Fellowship

- Coalition for a Livable Future
- Elders in Action
- Elephants Catering
- Et Fille Wines
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- World Affairs Council of Oregon
- Onward Oregon
- MercyCorps
- The Oregonian

SAGE encourages older adults to engage in a range of causes, including the following organizations offering service and advocacy opportunities.

Strengthening Education

- I Have a Dream
- Friends of the Children
- Metropolitan Family Services,
- AARP Experience Corps
- Minds Matter Portland
- Open School
- Oregon Office of Student Access and Completion
- SMART (Start Making a Reader Today)
- Stand for Children

Restoring Our Environment

- Center for Earth Leadership
- Climate Solutions
- Columbia Land Trust
- Forest Park Conservancy
- Northwest Earth Institute
- Oregon Environmental Council

Promoting Economic Security

- Albina Opportunities Corporation
- CASH Oregon
- Financial Beginnings
- Innovative Changes
- MercyCorps Northwest

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- David Michael Smith, Outreach Director

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