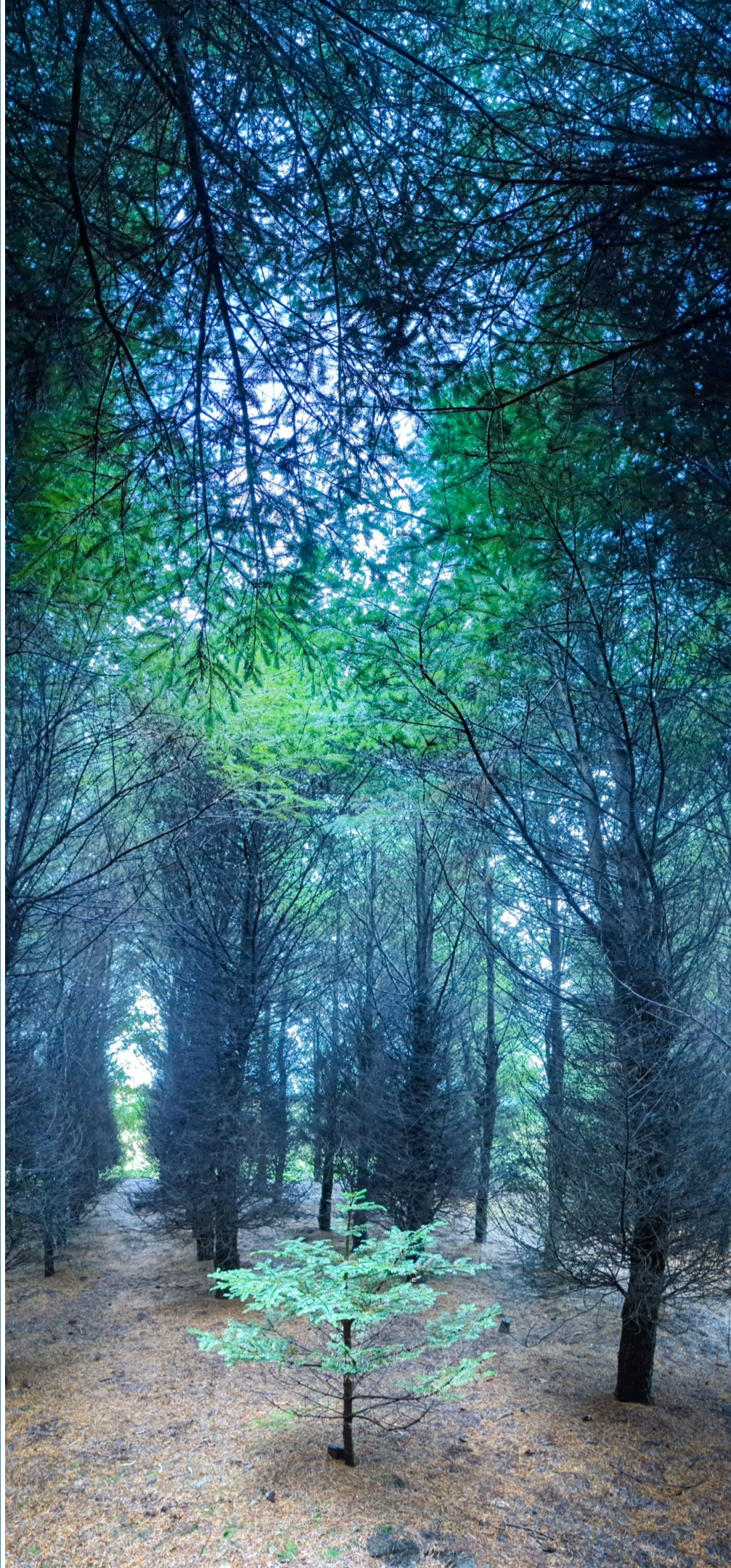




sage®

Inspiration for  
Giving Forward

Annual Report  
2020-2021



# Our Common Future

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When I was nineteen, I read a book titled *Our Common Future* by the World Commission on Environment and Development. This book describes the promise of sustainability – meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs – and explains how we can build a future that is more prosperous, just, and secure.

Today, as I write you, I am holding this book and reflecting on current challenges like the pandemic, civil unrest, racism, rising homelessness, climate change, and more. Right now, amidst the turmoil in our world, many of us wonder: what is our common future?

**This is why SAGE is here.** In Oregon, and around the world, we are part of a vast network of peoples and organizations who advance generational equity – our promise to leave the world better off than we found it. SAGE’s contribution to this great work is to inspire people over fifty to engage across generations and to give forward so that future generations can thrive.

This work is not easy, but we persevere because we were made for these times, and because the generations need each other, and the future needs all the advocates it can get.

In this report, you will read about some amazing people involved in SAGE leading initiatives to strengthen education, restore our environment, and promote economic security.

Like the authors of *Our Common Future*, the people involved in SAGE believe in a future that is prosperous, just, and secure. Let’s take a moment to imagine this future we create together.

It is a future where education promotes justice, critical thinking, democracy, and opportunity. It is a future where the environment sustains life with clean air and water. It is a future where the economy enables people to provide for themselves and their families. It is a future where our kids and their kids secure these opportunities regardless of the color of their skin, their ethnicity, their religion, their gender, where they live or who they love.

**Thank you for building this brighter future for today and tomorrow. Onward!**



Steve Higgs  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Quality Education

Education is the great equalizer. A good education provides the skills and experiences to gain confidence, contribute to community, build critical thinking skills, and to secure a job.

## Intergenerational Innovation

When schools shut down, SAGE offered its seventh **Legacy Fellowship** to train and support seven fellows to launch projects to help students recover from a tough year at school.

Our fellows are leading inspiring projects that promote mental health, heal trauma, help immigrant and refugee parents and their students, build hope and resiliency among Black youth, promote civics education, and provide onramps to college for students experiencing homelessness.

## Mentoring Youth

This year, in response to the pandemic, we launched the **SAGE Mentors Program** with Parkrose Middle School.

Today, nearly 20 older adults mentor students online. This win-win brings generations together, supports students in school, and helps older adults experience the joy of mentoring.



Too many Oregon students are reading below grade levels. In schools where many students are still learning English, the challenges are greater. Through our SAGE Mentors program, we pair students who are learning to read with older adults who serve as mentors. The friendships that form and the learning that happens on both sides is inspirational.

*“I had a teacher who changed my life. The SAGE Mentoring program has given me the opportunity to pass on this gift to another young person. I am grateful.”*

—Michelle Walsh

# Restoring Our Earth

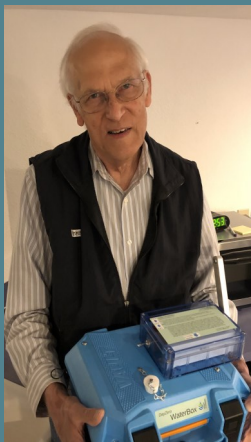
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*“I love driving past gas stations in my electric vehicle and not having to stop.”*

—Joyce Lackie

## Legacy Fellow Spotlight



6,000 children die every day from water and sanitation-related diseases. Working with a great team of volunteers, Legacy Fellow Dave Conklin is deploying an innovative technology, The Water Box, to supply safe drinking

water to people while eliminating the need to burn fuel to boil and purify water. This year, Water Box Volunteers launched their first field trial of the technology in Uganda. SAGE is proud to serve as fiscal sponsor. Learn more: [DayZeroInternational.org](http://DayZeroInternational.org)

To ensure that coming generations inherit a clean, livable world, SAGE connects people of all generations to environmental causes.

### Accelerating Electric Mobility

SAGE’s **EVs for All** team offers education, outreach, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and electric vehicles to older adults to increase awareness and use of electric vehicles. We are also developing two EV car-share programs to promote e-mobility among seniors and their friends and families. Working with Portland General Electric and our other partners, we focus attention on how EVs help people overcome barriers to transportation to remain civically engaged, to breath clean air, and to build connections.

### Promoting Climate Education

Our **Vision 2030** team offers lessons on climate solutions and justice for middle and high school students that empower students as partners to achieve the Portland and Multnomah County climate goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent from 1990 levels by the year 2030. We have presented lessons to over 1,000 students. Last year, we partnered with Portland Public Schools to host a major Climate Careers Summit for over 800 high school students.

# Promoting Economic Opportunity

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Not since the Great Depression has America faced the level of street homelessness, tent cities and people struggling without a safe place to call home.

## Focusing on Generational Poverty

We hosted our 2021 Visiting SAGE on breaking the cycle of generational poverty with nationally-renowned speakers, Drs. Donna Beegle and Shariff Abdullah. Together they shared powerful stories from their personal experiences in poverty to inspire us to find tangible and lasting solutions to prevent these cycles from continuing.

## Addressing our Housing Crisis

SAGE hosted an important series to learn and share views on how Oregonians and people around the country are responding to the ongoing housing crisis on our streets and what we can do about it. We focused attention on the causes of homelessness, how communities are responding, and spotlighted actions people can take to make progress on this major challenge.

## 2021 Visiting SAGE



At our Visiting SAGE event, we hosted Drs. Donna Beegle and Shariff Abdullah to raise awareness about how to break the cycle of generational poverty, and to inspire people to get involved.

Watch the recording:

[WeAreSage.org/BreakTheCycle](https://WeAreSage.org/BreakTheCycle)

*“The Visiting SAGE event inspired me to become better informed about the underlying systemic causes of poverty, diverse cultural perspectives, the lived experience of people who have been living in poverty, and to become more of an advocate for system reform.”*

—Diane Ponder

# Building Civic Bridges

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Communities face many challenges in education, the environment, and the economy. When we take time to listen and learn from each other, we can build bridges and find enduring solutions.



**SAGE Board Member  
Sheila Panyam**  
co-facilitated a three-part series on why democracy matters, with Multnomah County Library and Civics for Adults. Guests explored the meaning of democracy, our right to vote, and how we measure progress as a nation.

## Building Bridges

Through our **Citizen Project**, we offered six events to address Americans' increasing divisions on how to address public problems, and we shared examples of actions people take to bridge divides – learning about self, listening to diverse views, and identifying areas to work together. We also hosted our fourth state-wide convening to support collaboration among bridge-building organizations.

## Leadership Opportunities

SAGE's Young Leaders Advisory Board (LAB) hosted a meaningful intergenerational series on expanding perspectives across social and political divides. LAB Leaders also participated in our four-part series on Civics 101 to raise awareness about local government and how to get involved.

# Honoring Leadership & Innovation

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We hosted our **SAGE Awards** to honor Jay Bloom and the intergenerational housing community, Bridge Meadows. We recognized Jay for his remarkable gift of inspiring others to be their best selves.

We honored Bridge Meadows for their innovative work to develop and sustain intentional, intergenerational communities for youth formerly in foster care, adoptive families, and elders.



*“Thank you for inviting us to be a part of this Awards ceremony! SAGE is a wonderful organization whose focus and intent is based on the embracing of humanity at all stages of life.”*

—Marcia Hocker

# Special Thanks for Giving Forward

SAGE greatly appreciates gifts of time, money and expertise from all our supporters. The following individuals, foundations, and organizations made gifts of \$100 or more to SAGE between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

## FOUNDATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

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Cambia Health Solutions  
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Elizabeth C Pease Memorial Fund for Education and Social Welfare  
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Eileen Drake  
Diane Ponti and Ward Greene  
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Susan Hammer Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
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Elizabeth Schellberg and Gary Watkins

### Legacy Circle

*Gifts of \$1,000 or more*  
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Shawn Menashe  
Gay Hart and Robert Scanlan  
Sue and John Sorensen  
Marta and Ken Thrasher  
Merri Souther Wyatt Charitable Fund

### SAGE Circle

*Gifts of \$500 or more*  
Toni and Jay Bloom  
Irene and Robert Dale  
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*Gifts of \$100 or more*  
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We also thank all our anonymous donors!

Many others gave up to \$99. See our complete list online at [WeAreSage.org/AnnualReports](https://WeAreSage.org/AnnualReports).

Thanks to all of you!

A big thanks to our 100+ volunteers who donated thousands of hours to SAGE!

# SAGE—So Future Generations Thrive

SAGE inspires people over fifty to give forward with their time, money, and voice so that younger and future generations can thrive. Every day, we inspire people to plant their own tree of opportunity for the future by helping them identify their priorities, learn about opportunities for involvement, and engage.

This year, more than 2,500 people participated in our programs. **Thanks for giving forward!**



## Visiting SAGE

speakers raise awareness and inspire people to take action.

## Connect & Engage

discussions and workshops offer advice and pathways to make a difference.



## Legacy Fellowships

train and support leaders over 9 months to launch community benefit projects.



**Action Teams** engage many people and organizations to achieve shared goals.



## Contact us and learn more

Sign up for our newsletter

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Give online [WeAreSage.org/donate](http://WeAreSage.org/donate)

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