Collaborations and Community: Powerful Tools for Social Change

The Collaborative Process
Assessment and Collaborative Planning

“Mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship between two or more organizations or projects to achieve common goals by sharing authority, risk, responsibility and accountability for achieving results. Must have shared vision and joint strategies, pooling of resources or jointly securing resources and creation of new structures for operation.”

Community Toolkit working draft
Benefits of Collaboration

- Better use of resources
- Ability to create something that you can’t create on your own
- Greater likelihood of attracting and sustaining funding
- Higher quality, more integrated product or service for end user
- Leadership capacity is greater
- Longer organizational life and better ability to achieve success (Community Toolkit working draft)
Process
A. Assessment and Collaborative Planning
B. Targeted Action and Intervention
C. Community Change
D. Improvement in Outcomes
Assessment and Collaborative Planning

- I.D. common ground
- crisis
- demographic change
- opportunity
- shared values or goal
Who needs to be at the table?

- Convene a group of individuals and organizations who are affected by the problem or goal –
  - listening sessions
  - focus groups
  - sector specific roundtables
  - town meetings
  - face to face interviews
  - events
Focus Groups
Focus Group Recommendations

- Convene intergenerational discussions/dialogues
- Move from funded programs to community building
- Be an educational and organizational resource for intergenerational initiatives
Intergenerational Dialogue

- “See Through My Eyes, Walk in My Shoes” – The experience of being an American as seen through films, literature and music across the generations

- “Voices of Civil Rights” – A legacy of action
Vision Example

Hawai’i is recognized as a global leader in intergenerational work and as a model of an intergenerational society
HIN’s Mission

- To improve the lives of people of all ages by promoting and supporting intergenerational connections through advocacy, education and empowerment
Key steps

- Identify the issue
- Find and convene the partners
- Create the shared strategy
- Tell your story
Age integrated classrooms
Targeted Action: The Demonstration Projects

- To build community and organizational awareness of the strengths in intergenerational approaches and create a database of lessons learned and best practices
  - in the school systems
  - in senior residences
  - across public and private sectors
Demonstration Projects

- FELLOWS (Fellowship, Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities with Seniors)
  Model: Senior Center in the School
  - 21 elementary schools and 119 volunteers; in 2004 gave 13,353 hours of service ($213,648)
FELLOWS: community change
SKIPP (Senior Kupuna in the Preschools Project)

Clear on goals and outcomes

- To assist preschool children requiring special attention
- Six preschools in Hawai`i
Outcomes: SKIPP

- Classroom management/overall ambiance within the classroom improved
- In 9 months changed children’s behaviors such as hitting, inability to sit during story time
Kulana Hale Project

- Responding to isolation and issues of aging in place at a senior apartment complex
- Partnered with University of Hawai`i, Kapiolani and Honolulu Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa honor students.
- Weekly activities and the creation of “Friends and Neighbors” – resource and sharing manual to capture strengths of neighborhood and residents.
Connecting Residents to Build on Natural Helping Networks
Finding Strengths and Talents among the Residents
Seagull Schools Demonstration Projects

- A sustained partnership since 1996
- Shared site: adult day care and preschool
- Base for HIN interns
- Base for study tours with Japan
Seagull Schools Gardening Project: finding what works action based theory
Eye to Eye
Identify Issue Areas: Criteria - intergenerational equity or meets needs of two generations

- Advocacy
  - Grandparents raising grandchildren
  - A livable community –
    Mobility and aging in place
    Alternative housing models
  - Intergenerational workforce development
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

- 13% of Hawaii’s children are raised by grandparents as their primary caregiver

Result: HIN is facilitating the creation of a Grandparents’ Bill of Rights with grandparent support groups to raise awareness of specific needs and honor the work of these caregivers
Creating a livable community

- A livable community is one that has affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community features and services, and adequate mobility options, which together facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social life.
Alternative Housing Models

Aging in place and affordable housing are major needs

- Promoting models that help older adults remain in their homes in intergenerational communities
Safer streets to encourage walking is an intergenerational concern

“…Attention has focused on the high number and escalating occurrence of pedestrian fatalities in Hawaii--almost half of them seniors 65 years of age or older. According to the Department of Health Injury Prevention and Control Program, for every pedestrian who is killed, an estimated 6 are hospitalized and another 12 receive emergency treatment. The highest rates of hospitalizations and emergency visits are for children under 15 years of age. “
Create awareness through a community checklist

Good questions to ask yourself…

Does your community have roads designed for safe driving with clear and unambiguous signage, traffic stops and pedestrian crosswalks?

Do you have dependable public transportation to get to the places you would like to go?
In a MetLife Foundation/Civic Ventures New Face of Work study (July 2005) conducted with adults (ages 50-70):

- respondents (55%) were interested in teaching or other educational positions
- half (50%) wanted work that improved the quality of life in their communities.
- fifty-seven (57%) said a job must give them a sense of purpose.
- forty-six (46%) strongly supported a grant or tax credit for Americans over age 50 who spent a year in training for community service or actually working in job in service.
A new network based on workforce development

- **Purpose**: Certify early childhood aides and teachers by offering flexible classes for older workers and high school students on high school campuses
The Ke Ala Hoku Legacy: Study Tours

Diversifying Revenue

Going Global to Share Best Practices, Train Professionals, Enrich the Lives of Older Adults and Mentor Youth
Our very first study tour with colleagues from Jissen
World Congress of Youth Mentors and Youth Delegates in Morocco
Youth Set Priorities
Be the Change
Building community in Morocco
Traveling FELLOWS

- Partnership with Ohana English Preschools

-Elder/Kids Play Club
Older American adults teaching English to preschool children in Yokohama, Japan
OEP memories
A Shared Voyage into the Future