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Building Generations is a Coral Springs-based initiative that brings together low-income seniors and youth to build financial stability and healthy lifestyles through neighborhood coalitions. ARC Broward manages the program that is designed to build bridges between generations through such activities as education in financial literacy, personal budgeting and other life skills. Training is provided through collaborations with several local agencies, including Senior Volunteer Services, FLIPANY, RESBEAT and CareSource, all operating out of the Broward County Family Success Center.

During the first two years, 180 individuals participated in the program, with 71 percent completing the Fiscal Literacy and Independence Project (FLIP) and 88 percent reporting an increase in knowledge of meal/food budgeting. The United Way of Broward provides \$250,000 a year for three years to support the Building Generations initiative.



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A Letter from the CEO



ARC Broward
Achievement & Rehabilitation Centers, Inc.

"Enriching the Lives of People With disABILITIES and other challenges, since 1956"

Dear Friends,

Intergenerational programs are emerging nationally and internationally as a best practice model. This approach provides a catalyst to building community relationships that lead to enduring neighborhood support systems. As natural coalition leadership evolves, the coalitions become self-sustaining. This results in a reduction of the need for government and philanthropic support long-term. As the United Way of Broward continues down its path to address issues in a focused, impactful manner, the Building Generations initiative will stand out as producing outcomes that are somewhat different than traditional programs and services. Soon we will be able to determine the wisdom and viability of replicating this approach in other communities as was originally envisioned.

In addition to more specific outcomes detailed elsewhere in this report, perhaps equally important are some of the other positive ingredients of this effort. Non-Profit organizations are collaborating, seniors and youth are developing relationships in their neighborhoods and natural leaders are emerging within the neighborhood coalitions. This, above all else, provides the hope of long-term sustainability and neighbors helping one another to help themselves.

The dedication and commitment of our coalition members, agency partners, business, government and faith-based partners has produced results well beyond what we expected to see at the beginning of the initiative.

On behalf of our partners and coalition members, we applaud the forward thinking and support of this impact initiative provided by the United Way of Broward County.

Best Regards,

Dennis Haas
ARC Broward President/CEO
www.arcbroward.com

Overview of the Building Generations Initiative

“Building Generations, building better lives”

Building Generations bridges the generational gap and makes a direct impact in the lives of low-income youth, seniors, families and individuals. We do so by establishing neighborhood coalitions, which are comprised of our coalition members (the most important stakeholders we just mentioned), our partner agencies, elected officials, businesses, government, faith-based organizations and anyone else looking to better themselves through community involvement.

We offer a variety of support services and life changing opportunities to members who become involved with us. Modeling the initiative in a way that participants become a part of something as opposed to another number receiving a service and taking a hand-up and not a hand-out approach has allowed us to engage people in a way never thought possible. We also see first-hand the positive impact to all that the combined engagement of youth and seniors brings about. Contrary to widely accepted stigmas, different generations have a great deal to learn from each other if a proper channel can be opened to facilitate teaching. Building Generations is that conduit.

Here are the three pillars of Building Generations and the keys to a happy and healthy life:

Financial Stability. Building Generations offers the tools, strategies and resources that help our members utilize their income to its maximum potential to meet daily expenses in addition to beginning the long-term processes of saving and asset building. One-on-one financial planning is required of all members receiving assistance. It is also available to any that would like it. We also regularly host events, classes and workshops that focus on the many different areas of fiscal literacy.

Healthy Lifestyles. Good health is one of the most essential components of a good life. It impacts every aspect of a person's day; yet few have the time, energy or motivation to invest in themselves. Building Generations hosts cooking classes with curriculums specific to kids, families and seniors that teach participants how to shop for and prepare healthy, tasty meals. What you eat is only part of the battle though. We encourage our members to stay active. Participating in our annual Intergenerational Olympics is one way to do that!

Community Impact. When communities come together, schools succeed, neighborhoods are safer, crime rates shrink and people of all ages have an easier time realizing their potential. That's why Building Generations develops relationships to help identify problems and issues and works together to develop solutions. Our members log thousands of hours of volunteering every year, from schools to the community garden we helped bootstrap. The neighborhood coalition approach we take provides a sustainable and lasting base for real change within our community.

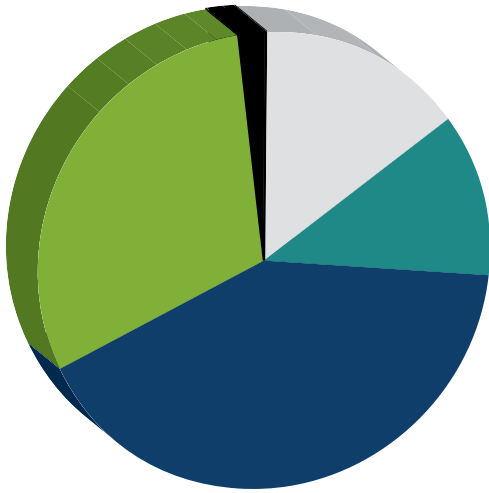


Building Generations
coalition members come
in all shapes and sizes



Demographics

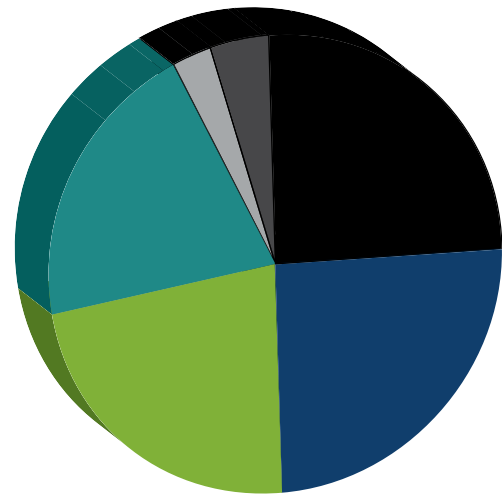
“We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all threads of the tapestry are of equal value, no matter what their color” -Maya Angelou



Age

●	0-5	4
○	6-14	29
●	15-17	22
●	18-59	79
●	60+	58

192
Coalition
Members



Ethnicity

●	Hispanic	49
●	Caribbean	47
●	White	44
●	African American	39
●	Asian	5
●	Other	8

South Florida is one of the most diverse places in the country. Coral Springs, Florida, the city in which we operate, is a microcosm of this diversity and the Building Generations initiative is a direct reflection of that. The challenge of bridging the generational gap was daunting at first, but the activities our members are currently engaging in lend themselves naturally to intergenerationality. As you can see in the graphs above, there is no one age group or ethnicity that is overly represented in Building Generations. This has been achieved through broad-based outreach to a variety of institutions, including schools and senior living facilities.

Outcomes 2010

Building Generations is outcome driven. Our coalition members have access to a variety of life skills classes and services at no cost to them thanks to the United Way of Broward. Our ultimate goal is to increase the financial literacy of the people that come to us and guide them on their path to self-sufficiency. We also focus on critical areas such as living a healthier lifestyle and making a positive impact in their community. These three key elements are the ingredients for a better life.

Financial Literacy Independence Program (FLIP)

FLIP teaches the basic budgeting skills necessary to maintain fiscal soundness. It is required of any members receiving assistance with rent, utilities, etc. and is provided through our partner agency Caresource.

Outcome

Increase in financial literacy understanding after completion

Goal

85%

Results

77%

Cooking Matters

Cooking Matters is the class offered through our partner agency FLIPANY that shows families and individuals how to budget, shop for and prepare healthy and tasty meals.

Outcome

Increase in level of meal/food budgeting after completion

Goal

85%

Results

93%

Employment and Life Skills

Part of our mission is to provide a sustainable foundation from which financial stability can be built. Showing someone how to manage their finances doesn't do much good if there isn't any income to manage! We work with our partner RESBEAT to offer a variety of classes and workshops that give people pointers on everything from how to write your resume to the soft skills that can give people an edge up in an interview.

Outcome

Coalition members that participate in 1 life skills class per quarter

Goal

60%

Results

95%

Volunteer!

Community Impact is one of the three keys of Building Generations and our members do a great job of getting and staying involved. In 2010, our coalition members logged in excess of 300 hours through events such as the Harvest Drive, beautification days, volunteering at our community garden plot and participating in our Intergenerational Olympics. Some of our members participate in the Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion programs offered through our partner agency Senior Volunteer Services and those two activities alone have given an astronomical **4,629 hours** of service back to our community!



Attendance at our monthly Neighborhood Coalition meeting has more than doubled since last year.

The Year in Review 2010

Through the collective effort of our partners, coalition members had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of quality services and supports including one-on-one financial stability training, volunteering at community and coalition sponsored events (e.g. beautification events at local facilities, etc.), healthy lifestyles education and cooking classes, monthly coalition meetings, community resource fairs and much more.

The Building Generations initiative also provided \$7,320 in immediate financial relief to 18 coalition members most impacted by the dire economy in 2010. This typically included support for critical utilities such as water and electric and for rental assistance.

In addition to the services provided as detailed above, Building Generations hosted or participated in:

Intergenerational Olympics

We hosted our inaugural Intergenerational Olympics on August 19th and 20th. The games included a variety of sports and fitness events and the participants valued the intergenerational experience so much that an Intergenerational Bowling league stemmed from it so they could stay in contact.



Vice Mayor of Coral Springs Claudette Bruck (left) at the opening breakfast

Coalition members at the bowling alley

Harvest Drive

For the second year in a row, Building Generations coalition members were on both the giving and receiving end of the Harvest Drive from November 15-17th, 2010. Recipients were given enough food to last approximately two weeks, including a Thanksgiving meal in addition to the ability to pick out donated clothes, home goods and toys for their families. This event is so meaningful that even though one of our former coalition members, Larmont, moved out of Coral Springs, he reached out and joined us in volunteering.



Live United bags jam packed with food and clothes, toys and home goods on the tables at Stoneman Douglas



Larmont directing student volunteers

The Year in Review 2010

Scholarships

In 2010, Building Generations awarded scholarships to two well-deserved students enrolled at the Atlantic Technical Center. Luisa came back to school to build a better life for her family and Ryan (not pictured) is in the welding program learning a trade that will pave the way to financial stability. The \$500 they each received went towards books and program materials.



BG Coalition Member Luisa and ATC faculty and staff with the BG Team

Community Gardens

Gardening has proven to be a rewarding venture and allowed us to branch out to new areas of the community. Our first foray into the world of horticulture began when we were approached and asked to be on a planning committee for a community garden in Coral Springs. We provided the seed money to get it going and with the help of the Rotary Club and the City of Coral Springs have since doubled the number of available plots and added a fruit orchard. Our seniors also enjoy getting out in the fresh air and tending to our plot, so this serves as a great way for them to come together.



Teamwork makes the dream work

Flo tending to our garden plot

The Year in Review 2010

Intergenerational Gardening and Healthy Cooking

While hosting a healthy cooking class at Hunt Elementary, a Title 1 school in Coral Springs, Coalition Builder Melissa Gousse brought up the idea of using ingredients grown on the school's grounds in the class to the school guidance counselor, Mrs. Denbow. She loved the idea and told Melissa they had a garden, but a lack of attention, resources and time had turned the garden into a jungle! Building Generations rebuilt the garden from the ground up with the help of the kids in the after care program and now they have taken ownership of the garden.

After a month of routine visits and a lot of TLC, we had the garden back in peak condition. Our seeds became sprouts and a couple of months later our sprouts were ready for harvest. The kids enjoyed the fruits of their labor: broccoli, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, collared greens, cilantro and dill.



We get by with help from our little friends

Teen Tech Classes

Seniors are often overwhelmed with all of the technology available today, but there has never been a greater need or benefit to being online and connected. On the other hand, teens are on the cutting edge and can tell you what is coming out before the outdated model makes its way to store shelves. Bringing the two together for each other's mutual benefit is a perfect example of the value of intergenerational relationships. We hosted a series of Teen Tech classes in April and May where seniors got to ask and learn how to take pictures with their cell phones and send emails and teens got to know what it was like in a time when there were only 3 channels in black and white.

We host and participate in a number of great activities and events throughout the year. To follow us in real time and keep in touch, find us on facebook at:



.com/BuildingGenerations



Collaborative Partnerships

The Building Generations initiative remains focused and made great strides towards desired outcomes in 2010. A critical ingredient to its progress was effective collaboration among its partner agencies who are listed below:

ARC Broward is the lead agency for Building Generations, a collaborative United Way of Broward County Impact initiative.



ARC Broward
Achievement & Rehabilitation Centers, Inc.



In addition to funding, they have provided us with a very clear objective regarding the impact in the community that we are collectively looking to make.



The City of Coral Springs is where we are making a community impact. The Parks and Recreation Department is our primary partner assisting with implementing intergenerational activities and recruiting seniors and youth to participate in the initiative.



RESBEAT Corp conducts workshops on topics such as resume writing, interviewing skills, communication in the workplace, personal improvement, having the right attitude and more.



Building Generations staff are housed at and receive referrals from the NorthWest Family Success Center.



FLIPANY provides services to coalition members in the form of their Eating Right and Saving Smart, Spending Smart classes.



Caresource provides money management services to coalition members in need by working with them through the FLIP program.



Senior Volunteer Services offers their Foster Grandparents program to children from low-income families as well as their Senior Companion Program.



Trudiann Phillips offers financial literacy classes and workshops to our members through her organization.



Catholic Health Services manages the St. Andrew Towers, a 400+ unit senior living facility in Coral Springs



FLIPANY teaching a cooking class at the St. Andrew Towers, a senior living facility



Coalition Builder Andrew Winner at a senior health fair hosted by the City of Coral Springs

Success Stories



Carmen

Through the work we do with a local senior living facility, the St. Andrew Towers, we met Carmen, a senior with a penchant for gardening and a desire to become more active in her community. About a year ago, Building Generations and our teen volunteers were beautifying the grounds at the Towers when Carmen came up and introduced herself and the rest is history. She was delighted to get out and work with the kids. She passes her knowledge and passion of gardening on to kids and tells us every time we see her how thankful she is for the opportunity to get out and get some fresh air and how much better it makes her feel.

Timberr

Timberr came to Building Generations looking for help with her utilities. The mother of five serves as the pillar of strength for her boys and husband. As she explains it, "I've experienced it all: Good and bad; happy and sad; Heaven and Hell. I won't say that I'm down in the deepest part of the valley, but life sure is about to peak! You have to laugh." Within a week of becoming a Coalition Member, Timberr and Hugh participated in three coalition activities and we were able to process their request for assistance. They shared their love of gardening with one of our seniors and helped us create our beautiful garden at Hunt Elementary School. Just when she thought things couldn't get any better, she applied for a position at ARC Broward and was hired!

Yasheka

Yasheka was referred to Building Generations by the Family Success Center because she was in need of assistance with her rent. She had recently been laid off and wasn't able to find work elsewhere. She was becoming discouraged with where her life was heading. We referred her to OIC and with their assistance and our guidance, she got enrolled in school. She calls us periodically to check in and boast about her accomplishments. **"Without the help from Building Generations, I wouldn't have been given the resources and motivation I needed to get where I am now."**



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Neighborhood Coalition Builders
Melissa Gousse and Andrew Winninger



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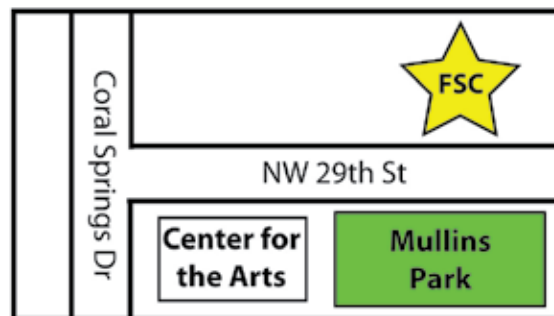


[.com/BGenerations](https://www.twitter.com/BGenerations)

To learn more about Building Generations, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or email us at buildinggenerations@arcbroward.com. You can also call us at 954-357-5000 or drop by our offices located at the Northwest Family Success Center or visit our website at:

www.buildinggenerations.info

10077 NW 29th Street
Coral Springs, FL 33065



For additional information about ARC Broward, contact us at info@arcbroward.com. You can also call us at 954-746-9400, drop by our office at 10250 NW 53rd Street in Sunrise or visit our website at:

www.arcbroward.com