THE SOUTH HADLEY INTERGENERATIONAL COALITION

A PowerPoint Presentation by Leslie Hennessey & Erin Marx
Our South Hadley Team

(Left to Right)

- **Sgt. Brian Willette**, Commander, South Hadley VFW # 3104
- **Dr. Nicholas Young**, Superintendent of Schools for South Hadley, MA
- **Sheila Adams**, President, Friends of South Hadley Elderly Inc.
- **Leslie Hennessey**, Director of the South Hadley Council on Aging
- **Joseph Rodio**, Director, South Hadley Public Library (missing from photo)
Our Intergenerational Project:

First Annual
South Hadley Public Schools
Veterans’ Recognition Breakfast
WHY I CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE

Sgt. Brian Willette
Commander of South Hadley VFW 3104

The community will benefit by these intergenerational programs and events because this will help our Youngest town members to meet and mingle with our town’s “Greatest Generation”. Our children will learn that “Freedom is Not Free”.

Our Organization, VFW Post 3104, will benefit from these intergenerational programs because this will give us another opportunity to fulfill our mission to perpetuate Americanism, promote Patriotic Education among our youth, perpetuate the memory of our dead and the history of our service in foreign wars, and generate a renewed interest thus increased membership in the VFW by our newest generation of Veterans who will be inspired by this intergenerational effort as a community service project.
WHY I CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE

Dr. Nicholas Young
Superintendent of South Hadley Schools
COL, USAR

Our sincere goal for prompting this collective community partnership, and for pursuing these grant resources, is to develop and sustain new opportunities to unite seniors and school-aged children beyond projects and programs that will benefit the larger community.

There is little question that there is a considerable body of research about the mental and physical health benefits of seniors associated with remaining active and engaged with others.
WHY I CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE

Sheila Adams
President, Friends of South Hadley Elderly, Inc

Connecting our wisest community with our youngest community provides benefits to both. Such wonderful relationships can be made and I truly believe these events will bring us closer together as a community.
Joseph Rodio
Director, South Hadley Public Library

The South Hadley Public Library was thrilled to be invited to join the South Hadley Intergenerational Coalition.

For many years, the library has offered programs for children, teens, and adults. More recently, we have been trying to better coordinate our programs for all ages into a more cohesive service offering. This includes intergenerational programming that spans the interests of multiple age groups.

In order for us to be successful, we need to work with our partner agencies in town to develop a comprehensive plan that appeals to the entire community. We also need to rely on the strengths of organizations such as the Council on Aging and Public Schools that have specialized services to different population areas.

The 2017 Veteran Appreciation Breakfast was a successful beginning to what we hope will be a sustainable coalition of community service agencies working to promote and expand intergenerational programming in South Hadley.
Leslie Hennessey
Director, South Hadley Council on Aging

Our goal is to increase and sustain opportunities for the South Hadley community, our older and younger members, to connect in meaningful and beneficial ways.

Studies show that when the generations come together everyone benefits. Intergenerational programs help to dispel age-related myths and stereotypes. Seniors possess rich histories and have developed a wealth of wisdom to share. Participating in interactive programs with our youth will lead to a feeling of productivity and value. These associations among our youth and our seniors will make South Hadley an inspiring and engaging community for all.

The Veterans’ Recognition breakfast was a collaborative effort that confirmed the outcomes of those studies. Watching the students interact and engage the Veterans made me so proud of our initiative and proud to work and live in this wonderful town of ours.
“The instructions I gave the students were to pin the Veteran on his or her lapel. One young student came up to me and said, “Ma’am, what is a lapel? I demonstrated on his shirt and then he eagerly went into the crowd and found a veteran. It was so touching.”

~Leslie Hennessey

Director, South Hadley Council on Aging
U.S. Marine Corps veteran Joshua Bouchard of Granby receives a pin during the breakfast.

*“From what I’ve seen the community really cares for their veterans. At least in my experience there are a lot of great people who care.”*

~ Joshua Bouchard, U.S. Marine

*source: Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton MA*
South Hadley Veterans Slide Show
War haunts our conscience; yet it weighs even heavier with the deaths of former South Hadley students. To them and their collective image we, the class of 1969, dedicate our yearbook.
*“I felt like he had something interesting that I could learn and he definitely did! He spoke about his friends—his comrades he lost and how he got his purple heart”

~ Zabe Solivan, 17, Student

*“Larry (Batley), along with many of his South Hadley boyhood friends, answered the nation’s call of duty during World War II”

~Sgt Brian Willette, Commander of VFW 3104

*source: Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton MA
A Picture Speaks a Thousand Words…

"Connecting Students with Service
Local Veterans honored at South Hadley breakfast"

World War II U.S. Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient Lawrence Batley, talks with South Hadley High School Students Kaylyn Labreque, 17, and Zabe Solivan, 17, about his war experiences.

*source: Daily Hampshire Gazette, Northampton MA
NEXT STEPS

- South Hadley Public Library staff is working on a summer reading program for children, teens, and adults and Joe Rodio has asked each of the planners to identify at least 2 programs in each age group that would be "inter-generational-appropriate".
Next Steps

United Way GrandFriends Day
April School Vacation Week

South Hadley Afterschool Program & YMCA
kids meet and teach our South Hadley COA Seniors.

“By participating in this project the two groups met on common ground and shared more than just knowledge but also began to develop friendships.”

~ Kathy Viens, Greater Holyoke YMCA
Our Thanks

Bridges Together ~ To Andrea Weaver, thank you for your endless enthusiasm and passion for Intergenerational Programming and inspiring us to bring our vision to life.

Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging (MCOA) ~ Thank you to MCOA, Bridges Together’s primary partner and key community supporter, for their generous grant to foster intergenerational learning.

The South Hadley Intergenerational Coalition ~ A very special thank you to each of our community partners for your enthusiasm and generosity in making this project possible. Sheila Adams, President of the Friends of South Hadley Elderly, Leslie Hennessey, Director of the South Hadley Council on Aging, Joseph Rodio, Director, South Hadley Public Library, Sgt. Brian Willette, Commander of VFW post 3104 and Dr. Nicholas Young, Superintendent of South Hadley Public Schools.

South Hadley Veterans and High School Students ~ Thank you for taking part in this endeavor. To our South Hadley Veterans, thank you for your honorable service to our country and for the sacrifices you made to protect our Freedoms. To our South Hadley youth, thank you for your enthusiasm and for respectfully honoring the Men and Woman of South Hadley who attended the First Annual Veteran Recognition Breakfast.