Barnstable Intergenerational Leadership Team

“Bringing Together the Best of Barnstable to Build a Better Community”

[Logos of Barnstable Senior Center, Barnstable Programs, Recreational Programs, BCOA, Barnstable Youth Commission]
The Barnstable Senior Center has a rich history of providing meaningful intergenerational programming to connect our older and younger generations. With our rapidly aging population, it is more important than ever to ensure that we are helping to provide opportunities to build relationships and foster mutual respect that will have a positive and lasting impact on our community. We echo the guiding principle of Generations United that “intergenerational collaboration unites and improves our communities.”

To that end, under the guidance of Bridges Together, we convened an Intergenerational Leadership Team with participation from the Recreation Division, High School Class of 2020, Youth Commission and Council on Aging. In January 2017, Andrea Weaver, Executive Director of Bridges Together facilitated a full day training during which team members learned about human development theory and collectively brainstormed about ideas for future intergenerational programming. It was an enlightening, enriching and fun experience for everyone involved!
Following the training, the team members kept in regular contact and plans got underway to host an intergenerational event on June 7th. Invitations were sent to all 582 Barnstable citizens aged 90 and over.

Over 160 seniors, students, and local officials attended the event and the Senior Center was abuzz with energy and excitement. Pictured are Youth Commission Chair Brendan Clark and Class of 2020 President Olivia Monteiro with Barnstable’s oldest citizen, 104 year-old Dorothy Robinson, who was presented with the Boston Post Cane award during the event.

To celebrate and honor their remarkable longevity, students presented certificates to all of the seniors who attended, including two other centenarians! Attendees were also treated to a beautiful musical performance by the High School Chorus who performed some timeless classics, including “As Time Goes By.”
Welcoming Remarks
Madeline Noonan - Senior Services Director
Mark Ellis - Town Manager
John Jope - Council on Aging Chair
Brendan Clark - Youth Commission Chair
Karen Gauthier & Olivia Monteiro - Class of 2020
Lynne Poyant - Director of Community Services

Presentation of Boston Post Cane Award to Dorothy Robinson
Janet Murphy - Assistant Town Clerk

Centenarian and 90 Plus Awards
Musical Performance
Barnstable High School Chorus

Refreshments and Intergenerational Discussion
Desserts generously provided by Brookdale Assisted Living

What is the most significant historical event that you lived through?

What invention most excited you?

What do you think has been the best change from when you were a kid to being a kid today?

What is your favorite memory of all?

What is something you have done to make the world a better place?

A list of questions on the back of the event program served as ice-breakers to help engage the students and seniors in conversation.
It did not take long for the room to fill with the sound of multiple conversations and for new friendships to be made. Everyone was thankful for the opportunity to connect and agreed that this should become an annual event.
The Barnstable Intergenerational Team looks forward to continuing our partnership and plans to meet again in the fall when the new school year starts to discuss future intergenerational programming ideas.

We are extremely grateful to the staff of Bridges Together and MCOA for their leadership, vision, and commitment to intergenerational programs. This opportunity would not have been possible without their support.