

# September is Intergeneration Month

by Jacqueline Webster



The Intergeneration Foundation (IG), formerly the Fountain Institute, has been working to intentionally connect generations by communicating, celebrating, and educating since 1987. Founder Sandy Kramer formed the institute in order to research intergenerational issues. The research identified the need to set aside a time each year to focus on intentionally connecting generations to better communicate age-related gratitude and needs. Intergeneration Day was originally designed as a day celebration, but has recently expanded into the whole month of September, in order to give families the opportunity to incorporate more events. What better way to celebrate than to plan some fun events to connect the generations in your family!

Storytelling is a great way to entertain, inform and educate family members about events that have happened in the past. Plan a visit to a senior living facility or ask the elders in your family if they can tell you and your family a story. They have likely seen a lot in their time and have interesting stories to tell. Listen and record their stories, for they will be a great reminder of the past. You would be surprised what you could learn from each other. It is important to keep those oral traditions going or risk them being lost to time.

Taking time to create a family tree and research genealogy is a satisfying multigenerational project for the entire family. Many find it helps with their own personal identity to know where they came from. Maybe your roots date back to Germany or Scotland? You will never know, unless you look. Taking time to partake in research with your family will get you steps closer to identifying your roots and linking those missing pieces. Set goals for your research and make it happen! IG's online site gives various links if you're interested in pursuing the genealogy of your family.

Once you have accomplished researching your family history, create an intergenerational scrapbook for the present generations of your family. Have every member of your family design a page. Start in the 1920's and create a page for each generation to the present. You can incorporate news events, fads, stories, quotes, music, and pictures of your family and friends. The scrapbook you make today will serve as a great link to the past for future generations.

Now that you and your family have some ideas for Intergeneration Month, you can start planning events to connect the generations of your family. Incorporate events with organizations, families, and individuals that support Intergeneration Month. Other suggestions include family reunions, block parties, volunteer events, community wide events, or an open house. Your options are endless! For more information on Intergeneration Month, please visit [www.intergenerationmonth.org](http://www.intergenerationmonth.org) or call (719) 471-3691.

Do you or a family member have a great story to share featuring two or more generations? IG invites people of all ages to participate in their Storytelling contest! \$100 cash prizes are available for the top ten winners. To find out more about how you can submit your story, please visit <http://www.intergenerationmonth.org/storyboard.html>.

