

Sages & Seekers

Honoring Elders. Empowering Teens. Building Community.



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Winter 2012 News

New Faces, New Development

Dear Friends,

As 2012 draws to a close, I am grateful for so many things. I am especially grateful for your continued support of Sages & Seekers. I want to take a moment to share some of the profound results we achieved with your help this year. In order to document our results, we created an on-line survey for our Seekers, which revealed that at the start of the program, 62% said they had no interest in getting to know Senior Citizens in their community. At the end of the 8 weeks, 81% said they would like to be able to contact their Sage with questions in the future! These statistics, along with the stories written by the students, clearly reveal a newly found interest in an older generation. As for the Sages, I think the following quote speaks to one of the many benefits of participating: "In sharing many of my past experiences with my Seeker, I was able to come to peace with some [experiences] that had bothered me, and to celebrate my accomplishments in a way I have never before done."

Last month, thanks to Jim Cudmore, a former Sage, I was invited to be on a panel at Regis College Lifelong Learning, with

Sages & Seekers has been extremely fortunate to receive volunteer help from several generous people.

Emanuela Gay, no stranger to the non-profit world, visited several of our Fall high school programs, to witness the stunning interaction between generations. She then spent countless hours researching and strategizing with our Executive Director, to help clarify our mission and record proof of the 8-week program's success in diminishing ageism and creating community. We are truly grateful for Emanuela's significant contribution to our growth.

Dick Brown, one of our own Sages who has participated in five programs, spoke at various COAs to assist in recruiting new participants to our programs. Realizing his keen talent as a speaker, we have asked him to take on another project. Because many of our Senior participants have talents we can utilize, we are now creating volunteer opportunities for those Sages interested in continuing their involvement!

Tim Carey, who teaches Expository Writing at Noble & Greenough, incorporated the 8-week program into his class of Seniors this Fall. The program took place in the Castle on Campus at the insanely early hour of 8:30am! But those Dedham Seniors were always early, and generously shared their life experiences. We thank Tim for allowing us to move the program from "After School Community Service" to the academic curriculum at Nobles.

two past Sages and two past Seekers. The most rewarding moment for me was when one of the Seekers was asked about his experience in communicating with the older adults. He responded, "I hear about a generation gap. But there was no gap."

These profound outcomes for both generations are the result of your contributions to our 8-week program. I greatly appreciate all of your support, as it takes countless hours and many donations to achieve our goal of reaching more Seniors and students. A donation of \$20 provides the roses given to honor each Sage as their story is presented the final week. A gift of \$1000 allows us to recruit a new school. 100% of your donation is used to run the programs.

Thank you to all the generous donors who believe in the mission of Sages & Seekers!

Gratefully,
Elly
Executive Director



Sage and Seeker after a presentation at Nobles.

Calling All Sages!

Sages & Seekers was founded on the idea that older adults in our culture are underutilized and underappreciated. We have been matching Seniors with teens for three years now, so that they can share their decades of accumulated wisdom with another generation. During this time we have noticed that the older adults of today do not fit the stereotype of a retired Senior Citizen sitting in a rocking chair on the porch, drinking a cup of coffee, reading the newspaper. They are active, they are involved. We have also been listening to the stories written about our Sages, and guess what? The Sages are exactly as we imagined... full of wisdom and life experiences!

How is it that we didn't think to utilize the very talents they possess for our own organization? Well, those days are over. Look out Sages, we need you and we have a list of things you can do to stay involved and to help us spread Sages & Seekers to other communities. Are you a good speaker, letter-writer, fundraiser, motivator, hostess or brain-stormer? Bring it on, we need what you have! Call 508-444-8821.

We Got Grants!

This has been a stellar season for Sages & Seekers. After three years of proving the worth of the program to many communities, we have received two grants. The Needham Education Foundation has awarded us a grant to run the program this Spring at the Needham High School, one of our 2 public high school programs.

The Robbins-de Beaumont Foundation has also chosen to award Sages & Seekers with a generous grant which will allow us to



Faces of Fall Participants.

train and hire a facilitator to run several of the existing programs in the MetroWest area. We are grateful for this gift, and their acknowledgement of our mission.

MISSION

Sages & Seekers' Mission is to dissolve age-related segregation by bringing two marginalized generations together, to foster respectful relationships while building community.

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