



SAGE Legacy Fellow Projects for 2014 – 2015

In June of 2015, SAGE honored the first fourteen graduates of the Legacy Fellowship. Each fellow defined a community challenge or area of need, and leveraged his or her strengths to implement a solution. Some projects are complete and others are ongoing.

Below is a short summary of each fellow's project. To learn more or to get involved, call SAGE at 971-717-6570 or email info@wearesage.org.



Legacy Fellows received walking sticks to symbolize the wisdom and leadership passed down from those who came before us.

Alcina Anthony & Mark Howe

Once a person has been convicted of a crime, it can be very difficult for them to find a job. Alcina and Mark's project involves developing a temporary employment internship for individuals with a drug-related felony. They partnered with an experienced team of professionals to form a nonprofit organization to provide this internship and other services to cut down on recidivism.

Andrew Ragland

There is a growing need for innovative projects to develop affordable and renewable power supplies. Andrew tested one model to facilitate the bulk installation of solar panels on homes in his neighborhood. He built a coalition with 23 business and nonprofit partners to promote residential solar installations, and raised awareness about the benefits of solar in residential communities.

Deb Child & Fran Finney

The nonprofit organization, Outside In, helps many homeless youth in Portland rebuild their lives and move towards improved health and self-sufficiency. Deb and Fran led a project for Outside In to conduct interviews and review successful practices used by other community agencies and individuals serving LGBTQ youth, especially transgender youth experiencing homelessness. Their research and interviews will be used to inform and enhance Outside In's client services.

Connie McDonald & Cynthia Lester

Many homeless women in Salem live on the streets for months because they do not have the skills to be self-sufficient. Grace House provides a stable transition home for women for six months. Each guest receives an individualized plan, mentor, and self-sufficiency classes. Cynthia and Connie are carrying out therapeutic workshops for guests at Grace House to help women get back on their feet and improve their lives.

Elizabeth Smith

Many seniors would love to own a dog, but are unable to because of the cost and time required. Liz created “fairy dog parents” to connect seniors who love dogs with dog owners who need help watching their dogs during the day. In addition to connecting pets with loving caretakers, Liz is working to help seniors gain a sense of purpose, combat loneliness, and earn income for their services.

Mena Ravassipour

Mena’s project involves sharing resources and expertise among neighbors in a major (1,000+ tenant) residential community. With the support of the property management company, she is engaging local experts to volunteer time and expertise to help others in need. Her project strengthens community ties by helping people share the tools, knowledge, and expertise of their neighbors.

Mary Louise Warhus

There are over 25 million non-native English speakers in the U.S., and many remain culturally segregated. Mary Louise’s project involved reaching out to higher education institutions to explore, define, and design student internship opportunities to expand connections and bridge gaps. For her project, she collaborated with People-Places-Things, an organization that offers interculturalist teacher training for teaching language and cultural skills to non-native English speakers.

Mike Unger

Many of the solutions to sustainability challenges are highly technical in nature such as promoting energy efficiency and renewable power. Mike is the co-founder and president of Engineers for a Sustainable Future (ESF), a nonprofit organization working to highlight the role engineers play to solve tough challenges. Mike’s project involves building the membership of ESF.

Robert Dale

Robert created a website to document the beautiful ceramics of artist Ben Sams. Sams, now deceased, had more than 50 exhibitions across the country in the 60s and 70s, and was described by Time Magazine as the foremost young ceramic artist in the country.

Roberta Schwarz

Scientists estimate that less than 2 percent remains of the original White Oak Savanna of the Willamette Valley, and only a fraction of these lands are in public lands. Working with other volunteers at the nonprofit Neighbors for a Livable West Linn, Roberta successfully acquired and restored 14 acres of savanna, and donated it to the City of West Linn. Her project is to raise an additional one million dollars to acquire another six-acre parcel, and create a 20-acre nature preserve.

Ward Greene

While serving as President of SAGE, Ward developed “Give Forward Day” to provide customers qualifying for senior discounts an easy way to donate those discounts to nonprofit organizations that help younger and future generations. He aims to create a new and simple way for seniors to give to causes that help the next generation.