Generations Working Together

#GICScot26

Intergenerational Excellence Awards 2026

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Generations Working Together

Celebrating Intergenerational Excellence

Tonight, we are proud to celebrate 13 outstanding finalists whose work is transforming lives, strengthening communities and demonstrating the power of meaningful connections across generations.

Drawn from a diverse range of organisations, projects and initiatives, each finalist has shown exceptional commitment, creativity and impact in bringing people of different ages together. Their achievements remind us that when generations connect, everyone benefits.

We congratulate all of our finalists and thank them for inspiring us with their passion, dedication and vision for a more connected world.

Meet the 2026 Excellence Awards Finalists Across Seven Inspiring Categories

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Measuring Impact: Showing What Works Award

This award recognises projects that go the extra mile to understand and demonstrate their impact. From creative evaluation tools to involving participants, volunteers, staff and community members in capturing feedback, these projects show how evidence and insight can strengthen and sustain practice and inspire others.

Partners in Rhyme, Massachusetts, USA

Partners in Rhyme is a six-week intergenerational poetry programme that brought 20 adolescents and 10 older adults together to read, discuss, and write poetry. The programme's mission is to reduce ageism and social isolation and introduce participants to poetry in an engaging and accessible way. Participants meet weekly in small groups that remain together for the first half of the series, before being reshuffled to encourage new connections.

Each session explores a different social and emotional learning theme through poems by contemporary and classic poets. Poetry serves as a catalyst for conversation, reflection, creative writing, and meaningful connections across generations.

The Melody Project, New York, USA

Founded by 16-year-old Gemma Wang, a high school student and classical pianist, the Melody Project addresses loneliness among older adults in care communities. Through recurring structured sessions, student volunteers and residents share live music, reminisce, and engage in a collaborative creative activity including beading, songwriting and memory cards. Residents bring memories, humour, and life experiences; students bring curiosity, music, and companionship.

The Melody Project has engaged 400+ older adults and 300+ student volunteers through a growing network of student-led chapters and senior living partners across North America, Asia, and Africa.

Intergenerational Workplace: Where Every Generation Thrives Award

This award honours organisations that are embracing age diversity as a strength. Whether through inclusive policies, intergenerational mentoring, collaboration, or shared learning, these workplaces are creating environments where all generations can contribute, build relationships, connect and thrive.

Future ERG @Grundfos, Denmark

Grundfos is a global leader in water solutions with over 21,000 employees and operations across 60+ countries, bringing together a diverse workforce spanning multiple generations, cultures, and time zones. At Grundfos, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion is a strategic priority, built on the belief that diverse perspectives drive innovation, growth, and belonging. Through five global Employee Resource Groups (ERG) operating across 60+ countries and engaging more than 2,000 members, Grundfos fosters an inclusive workplace where employees can thrive.

Future ERG is the intergenerational and early-career community of Grundfos, empowering young professionals to learn, connect, grow, and shape the future of work. Since its launch, the network has expanded to over 1,100 members with more than 30 volunteer drivers, delivering global and local initiatives focused on career development, leadership exposure, mentoring, networking, wellbeing, volunteering, and community building. Key programmes include Grundfos Career Expo, leadership panels, student community initiatives, and recognition of remarkable young professionals. Through these activities, Future ERG strengthens employee engagement, career growth, cross-generational collaboration, and a culture of inclusion across the organisation.

Intergenerational Housing, Spaces & Places: Designing Connection Award

This award recognises bold and thoughtful approaches to creating spaces that foster relationships and connection across age groups. From shared housing models to inclusive community spaces and play areas for all ages, these initiatives are helping to rebuild connection in an age-segregated world.

Bridge Meadows, Oregon, USA

Bridge Meadows creates purpose-built intergenerational communities where children and families impacted by foster care live alongside older adults in affordable housing, supported by wraparound services and opportunities to build meaningful relationships across generations. Today, 215+ residents – from 6 months to 95 years old – live in our communities. Bridge Meadows is a cost-effective solution to systemic challenges in child welfare, aging, and social health and services.

Programmes are offered throughout the year to strengthen relationships, promote well-being and build resilient communities. By addressing root causes and strengthening communities from within, we ensure vulnerable populations have housing stability, social support, and the resources they need to thrive.

Treehouse Foundation, Massachusetts, USA

Treehouse Easthampton is an affordable, 60-home community of approximately 110 residents which brings together children, young adults, caregivers and families with foster experience, and low-income older adults aged 55 to 85+.

For 20 years, Treehouse have combined affordable housing, thoughtfully designed shared spaces, and trauma-informed community programming to foster belonging, mutual support, and opportunity. Treehouse creates the conditions for neighbours to become mentors, caregivers, volunteers, and extended family. This relationship-centred model has contributed to exceptional outcomes for youth while reducing isolation, increasing purpose and strengthening community for residents of all ages.

Tackling Ageism:
Changing the Story of Age Award

This award celebrates projects that are actively breaking down stereotypes and bringing generations together to rethink how we see age. Through conversations, shared experiences, and activities, these initiatives create a more respectful, understanding and age-positive society.

Ayr Grammar Early Years Centre and Windyhall Care Home, Ayr, Scotland

For the past two years, Ayr Grammar Early Years Centre and the Windyhall Care Home have brought together young children and older adults for meaningful experiences that foster relationships, reduce social isolation and promote mutual respect, empathy and wellbeing across generations. Children and residents meet weekly to take part in a wide range of shared activities including storytelling, songs and music, arts and crafts and games.

The sessions have enhanced the children's confidence and communication skills, whilst the older adults have been valued as friends and community members. Age is not viewed as a barrier to learning or belonging with genuine friendships formed across the generations.

What do you see when you look at me? Good Companions Group, West Lothian, Scotland

This project buddied up 16 older (65-95) people and 16 younger (13-15) people to create and publish life stories. Through a series of structured meetings, the groups discussed the older person's life story, which was then typed up by the younger person. A multi-generational editorial group then reviewed, formatted and illustrated the publications.

A community launch event invited friends and families to celebrate and read the project's stories. The project helped to challenge age-based stereotypes, strengthen community bonds and build meaningful generational connections.

Diversity & Inclusion: Everyone Has a Place Award

This award recognises projects that champion diversity, equity and inclusion – creating spaces where people can take part in ways that suit them, regardless of ability or background. From supporting those with physical or mental health challenges to promoting social justice and community cohesion, these initiatives ensure no one is left out.

Methilhaven Nursery, Fife, Scotland

As a shared intergenerational site, Methilhaven Nursery, and its partner Methilhaven Home, is the first of its kind in Scotland. We offer stimulating opportunities for children to explore, imagine, and discover while embracing intergenerational learning. By connecting children with older generations, we share wisdom, stories, and skills that strengthen community ties and celebrate learning across all ages. We support our children to develop their social and emotional skills, while respectfully enriching the lives of the adults. Children and their older friends come together through play and shared activities. These moments are special and fun with warmth and respect evident.

Peedie Connections, Orkney, Scotland

Our intergenerational project, Peedie Connections, brings generations from Stromness Nursery and Hamnavoe House Care Home together in a welcoming, relaxed and inclusive environment. Once a week, children (3-5) are brought together with residents (60-100) and supported by staff (20-60) from both services to build meaningful mutigenerational relationships through mutually beneficial activities. Our themed weeks and activities including baking, games and arts and crafts, support mental, physical and social wellbeing, allowing participants to build connections and enriching relationships. By creating these opportunities for the children and residents to come together, our project promotes inclusion, strengthens community connections and celebrates the unique perspectives and experiences that all generations have to offer.

Reciprocal Learning:
Sharing Skills, Sharing Stories Award

This award credits projects that bring generations together through meaningful exchange. Whether it's skills sharing, tackling big issues like climate change, or learning from each other's lived experiences, these initiatives show the power of learning with, not teaching to.

JGC Gardening Club, Jedburgh, Scotland

JGC Gardening Club was established in 2022 to improve the communication skills of primary age children (8-9) through the creation of a school garden. Older volunteers (70+) were brought in to pass along their gardening knowledge to the children.

The outdoor experience provides children with time to decompress from the classroom, whilst continuing their learning in an active way, developing practical life skills and awareness of the importance of sustainability. The volunteers enjoyed the camaraderie of working together, the interactions with the children and have developed supportive relationships outside the project.

North Lanarkshire Council – Digital Intergenerational Project, North Lanarkshire, Scotland

North Lanarkshire's Driving Digital Locally Intergenerational Project aims to build digital confidence and reduce isolation by equipping older residents with essential digital skills through meaningful connections with young people.

It delivers one-to-one, intergenerational support that enables senior residents to live safer, healthier and more connected lives, while also developing pupils' confidence, communication skills and sense of community.

The project has supported 175 elderly tenants and 220 school pupils across 21 North Lanarkshire locations. Its impact has been widely recognised, including positive media coverage and a feature on STV News. Crucially, the project has fostered lasting intergenerational relationships, with more tenants using digital technology to enhance social connections and manage everyday tasks independently.

Creating Intergenerational Communities: Building for the Future Award

This award celebrates organisations using the Creating Intergenerational Communities Toolkit and Network to strengthen the quality and sustainability of their work. With a proven social return of £6.97 for every £1 spent, these initiatives demonstrate what's possible when good practice is embedded and shared.

Living Lives Together, Chester, England

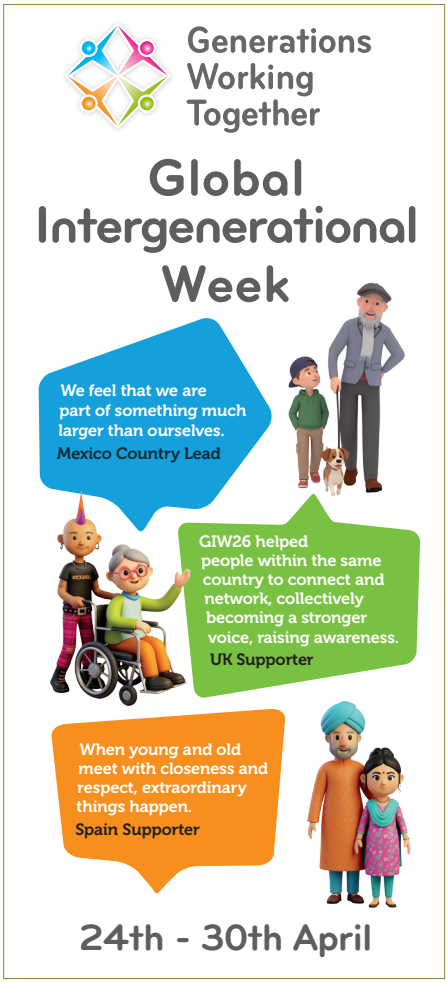
Living Lives Together is an intergenerational wellbeing programme run by the Chester Creative Health partnership led by Ready Generations charity. The programme works alongside city communities with a focus on the most marginalised. The partnership is composed of community members, creatives and cross sector partners from health, business, education and care.

Our aim is to build stronger all age communities by optimising local assets and expertise through a focus on relationships, wellbeing and lifelong learning. Since 2025, the programme has reached over 4,000 individuals, with ages from 0 to 103 years, with over 1,000 sessions.

Padre Manjón School, Granada, Spain

The main commitment of the Padre Manjón School is to ensure that formal, regulated primary and secondary education becomes actively engaged in a shared and effective effort to improve our immediate community environment. The "Intergenerational Project" course is the first officially accredited course in the curriculum of a secondary school in Spain aimed at creating spaces for intergenerational relationships.

Its 2025 programme involved 17 students (16-18) and 8 older adults (80-95) and was delivered at the Beiro Civic Centre in the city of Granada for two hours each week. Participating students along with older people from local day-care centres have engaged with commitment and perseverance, and the project has helped create relationships which have transcended a single academic year.



The conversation doesn't end here. Join us during Global Intergenerational Week 2027 as we continue building connections, sharing ideas and creating a world where every generation thrives together.

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