

Generation to Generation

Generation to Generation Newsletter Vol. 4 No. 2

Start a new chapter

The rapid growth of Generation to Generation should never stop. There are more than 100 participating high schools and retirement homes. We want this number to continue to grow across the state and country. Our success is a product of our passion to promote positive relations among members of different generations while giving back to the community. If you would like more



information on how to start Generation to Generation in your town, please go on our website and see how you can start these positive changes in your community today.

[Click here to view a message from our CEO.](#)

[generation2generation](http://www.generation2generation.org)

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An Opportunity For Success

In 2008, Robert Lawson was failing out of his sophomore year of high school. With no motivation to graduate or attend class, his future looked dim.

“When I look back at that time in my life, I realize how lost I was as a person,” Lawson said. “I had no reason to try, no one was at home to encourage me or appreciate my work.”

Lawson lived with his father and was the youngest of 6 children. He let his frustration of being overlooked at home lead him to an apathetic attitude at school.

“My dad worked nights, so when I came home from school he was asleep,” Lawson said.

One person that noticed Lawson’s struggle was his math teacher Miss. Smith. Because Lawson had failed math his first year, Miss. Smith was his teacher for 2 consecutive years.

“When he did attend class he was a disruption,” Smith said. “He caused a scene every time he entered the classroom.”

After Miss. Smith had reached her patience with Lawson, she decided to reach out to him.

“Our school had recently started the program Generation to Generation,” Smith said. “I saw it as an opportunity for Lawson to gain a positive



relationship.”

Smith took Lawson to his first meeting. He was paired with a senior citizen, Bob Hope, whose wife had recently passed away. Hope gave Lawson the attention and encouragement that his life was

lacking. However, meeting once a week was not enough. As a result, the pair met almost everyday after Lawson got out of school. As a former college professor, Hope tutored Lawson in all of

his classes. Two years later, Lawson graduated as valedictorian of his senior class and received a full-ride scholarship to Duke University. Lawson credits all of his success to Hope and Generation to Generation.

“I never knew how much one person could change my life for the better,” Lawson said. “I want to make Bob proud, he is my hero.”

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Tell us your story. Contact Addison Raleigh
at www.g2g.org
or
(405) 623-7315

Connecting with the Community

Senior citizens and high school students raise money for community.

The residences of Golden Oaks retirement village and the students of Stillwater High School have paired up to raise money for the Stillwater Humane Society.

Generation to Generation organized the retirement village and high school group to join together and have a bake sale on Oklahoma State University’s campus.

This past Saturday, Generation to Generation hosted a bake sale on the OSU campus. The bake sale raised more than \$700, which went directly to the Stillwater Humane Society. Students and senior citizens had the opportunity to present the check to the Humane Society.

Ethel Melton, a resident of the Golden Oaks retirement village, has been a member of Generation to Generation for more than five years.

“My grandchildren live far away and I hardly ever get the opportunity to use my old recipes,” Melton said. “I enjoyed teaching the students how to bake and passed down some of my old tricks as well as raise money for worthy causes.”

Melton has kept in touch with all of the high school students she has been paired with through letters and emails. Also, many of her former partners in Generation to Generation come to visit her on a regular basis.

Many of the students were first-time

participants who claimed they had never had an opportunity to do something for their community.

Mary Jones, a student of Stillwater High School, has been a member of Generation to Generation for a month and the bake sale was her first event to participate in.

“I wish I had been a part of this sooner, Jones said. “When we presented the check to the Humane Society and I saw the look on their faces, I knew my hard work had paid off.”



Founder of Generation to Generation



Lauren Perkins is the president and founder of Generation to Generation. As an Oklahoma State University alumna, she has dedicated her life to her nonprofit organization located in Oklahoma. She created Generation to Generation because of her close relationship with her grandparents and her passion for helping others. This organization pairs a high

school student with a member of a retirement home for community philanthropies. Together these pairs help their communities and build relationships.

What started

out as a local organization grew into a national program in two years. Despite the rapid growth, Lauren Perkins is involved with coordinating every event hosted by Generation to Generation. As of 2012, Generation to Generation is the fastest growing nonprofit organization in the Midwest.



Perkins with her grandparents and boyfriend on vacation in Branson, MO in 2012.