



Bridging Generations: A Summer of Youth & Elder Engagement

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Session Objectives



Model of Collaboration

Sharing a replicable collaboration model between youth groups and elder care facilities.

Benefits of Interaction

Highlighting tangible benefits experienced by both youth and seniors through their interactions.

Practical Tools and Frameworks

Providing participants with tools and frameworks to implement seasonal programs locally.

Our Partnership Story

Partnership Background



Youth Empowerment Focus

BGC Cape Breton specializes in youth programs that foster empowerment through inclusive, supportive environments.



Compassionate Elder Care

Harbourstone Enhanced Care prioritizes compassionate elder care focusing on community integration and wellbeing.



Collaborative Partnership

The partnership combines strengths to foster connection, inclusion, and create a sustainable impactful program.

Creating Safe Spaces for Connection

Core Principles for Planning

Fostering Intergenerational Connections

The program created meaningful connections between youth and elderly through shared activities and collaboration.

Enhanced Social-Emotional Learning

Youth participants developed social-emotional skills through engagement and learning from elders.

Promoting Inclusion and Respect

The program fostered mutual respect and inclusion across generations, strengthening community spirit.



Our Environment



Accessible Recreation Spaces

The program developed open and accessible spaces to encourage social interaction among all age groups.

Safe and Welcoming Environment

Spaces were designed to be safe and consistent, fostering security and comfort for visitors.

Promoting Connection and Belonging

Physical environment helped break barriers, promoting community and meaningful exchanges.

Program Structure and Roles

Weekly Program Structure

Consistent Weekly Routine

The program's weekly structure offered predictability and comfort while encouraging creativity and spontaneity.

Engaging Icebreakers

Icebreakers facilitated easing of initial interactions among participants, promoting openness and connection.

Collaborative Themed Activities

Themed activities fostered collaboration and learning, enhancing participant engagement and teamwork.

Reflection and Connection

Designated reflection time helped participants process experiences and build deeper relationships.



Participant Roles

Youth as Leaders and Storytellers

Youth brought energy, creativity, and a willingness to learn as leaders, storytellers, and helpers.

Residents as Mentors and Teachers

Residents shared life experiences and wisdom, acting as mentors and teachers to the youth.

Mutual Respect and Collaboration

The dynamic fostered mutual respect and admiration, valuing each group's perspective.

Empowered Participation

Role-based structure empowered meaningful contributions, enhancing purpose and intergenerational goals.



Program Impact

Benefits for Youth

Social-Emotional Growth

Youth gained strong social-emotional skills by engaging deeply in program activities.

Leadership Development

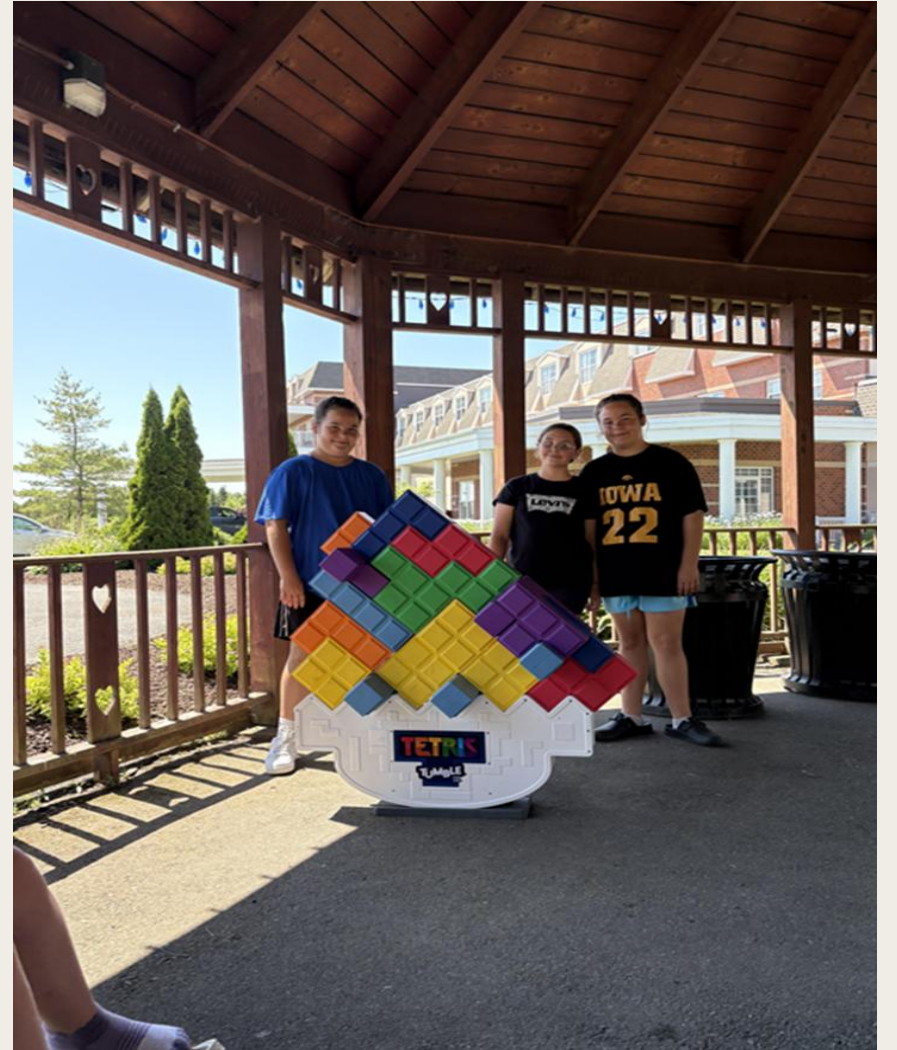
Participants developed leadership by taking initiative and guiding peers and elders.

Empathy and Respect

Interactions fostered empathy and respect for older generations and diverse experiences.

Confidence and Communication

A supportive environment boosted confidence and communication skills for future challenges.



Benefits for Elders



Emotional Well-being Improvement

Purposeful engagement helped elderly residents improve their moods and reduce loneliness significantly.

Intergenerational Connection

Interactions between generations fostered meaningful connections, allowing sharing of stories and wisdom.

Enhanced Quality of Life

Meaningful social engagement enhanced the dignity and life quality of senior residents significantly.

Reflection and Future Planning

Lessons Learned



Flexibility and Adaptation

Adapting to participants' evolving needs ensured inclusivity and program relevance throughout implementation.

Consistency Builds Trust

Consistent programming fostered trust and reliability, leading to sustained participant engagement.

Community Buy-In

Gaining community support created a strong network and facilitated resource sharing for program success.

Hands-On Activity: Build Your Bridge !

Who are your participants?

What's your shared purpose or theme?

What kinds of activities would help them connect and learn from each other?



Closing Reflections

Takeaways



Essence of Intergenerational Programming

Intergenerational programming builds bridges of understanding, belonging, and purpose beyond simple activities.

Fostering Meaningful Relationships

Fostering meaningful relationships across generations promotes community and individual growth.

Transformative Potential

Intergenerational engagement has lasting transformative effects on individuals and communities.



Intergenerational programming isn't just about activities — it's about building bridges of understanding, belonging, and purpose. When youth and elders connect, communities grow stronger.