

Andrea J. Weaver

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Professional Experience

BRIDGES TOGETHER INC., MA

Founder & Executive Director

2012 - 2020

Lead Bridges Together Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to educating, empowering and connecting generations to transform lives for today and tomorrow. Collaborated with teachers, people in aging services and community leaders to explore what are strong intergenerational programs, why we need them and how to create effective ones.

Accomplishments include:

Conducting Trainings

- Trained more than 500 professionals per year on the art and science of intergenerational engagement
- Created the BRIDGES Program Curricula Suite which has engaged more than 20,000 older adults and young people (preK-grad school) across the country since 1991
- Developed an eight-hour, online training program for BRIDGES which was successfully used to in several communities across the country
- Designed and rolled out Community Intergenerational Leadership Team trainings

Developing Tools

- Developed two decks of Grand Conversation Cards each with 40+ questions to stimulate engaging conversations between youth and elders
- Wrote more than two dozen, theme-based *Bridging Generations: How-To-Guides*.

Thought-Leadership and Advocacy

- Serves on AARP-MA Task Force to End Loneliness and Build Community
- Convened two Intergenerational Conferences with attendees from multiple states
- Assembled a Summit comprised of state intergenerational leaders with the purpose of drafting a list of priorities for the Secretary of Elder Affairs; wrote and submitted a formal report
- Initiated and coordinated the state celebration of Intergenerational Awareness Month and assumed lead responsibility for national Intergeneration Month celebration
- Attended AARP's Intergenerational Conversation in Washington DC
- Facilitated and hosted a series of Lunch & Learn programs across the state
- Coached organizations and individuals on effecting systemic intergenerational change.

Connecting

- Convened and collaborated with a Board of Trustees and an Advisory Council
- Hired and supervised staff
- Raised funds to support the growing organization
- Engaged with more than 4,800 people through social media

INTERGENERATIONAL SPECIALIST & PROGRAM DIRECTOR

1991 - 2001

Initiated, planned and implemented one-time and on-going activities for children ages 5-18 and elders, based on senior centers' and nonprofits' strategic plans.

Accomplishments included:

- Designed, wrote and taught an award-winning curriculum, "BRIDGES: Growing Older, Growing Together", that brings children and older people together to explore aging as a life-long process. "Trained the trainers" at schools and community centers. First piloted the program in 1991.
- Supervised the development of The Dennison Museum, an intergenerational oral history project that resulted in displays about the paper company managed high school and older adult volunteers hired and supervised consultants.
- Facilitated a program to train and support retirees to be teacher's aides in preschool classrooms at Temple Israel in Boston.
- Co-taught Introduction to Gerontology at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.
- Co-facilitated a support group for grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Initiated and planned intergenerational activities based on senior centers' strategic plans.
- Edited and wrote articles for two quarterly newsletters with distribution of 2,000.
- Managed 200 volunteers annually.
- Presented workshops on intergenerational issues for state and regional conferences.
- Wrote grants and managed annual budgets up to \$80K.

TECHNICAL & CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

1997 - 2012

- Website Project Manager at SITEGEESE
- Webmaster and Technology Assistant at LEXINGTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
- Marketing Manager, Webmaster & IT Business Analyst at DYNAMIC FLOWFORM CORP.
- Web Project Manager at net2gether.com through SULLIVAN & COGLIANO INC.
- Copy & Web Editor at ACIS, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, STAPLES, TDEC
- MS Office & Quark Xpress Instructor at LASSELL COLLEGE
- Software Quality Assurance Engineer at CROSS-COUNTRY GROUP thru SULLIVAN & COGLIANO
- MS Access Database Manager at AMERICAN RED CROSS thru SULLIVAN & COGLIANO INC.
- Help Desk Supervisor, Technical Writer & Quality Assurance Engineer at SKILLCHECK INC.

THE LABOURE CENTER OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, MA

1993 - 1994

Coordinator of Volunteers and Public Relations

MT. AUBURN HOSPITAL PREVENTION AND TRAINING CENTER, MA

1989 - 1991

Resource & Administrative Assistant

Internships

- Intergenerational Resource Specialist at MA. EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS, MA 1993
- Eldercare Resource Specialist Intern at ELDERLINK, INC., MA 1993
- Elder Services Researcher at MT. AUBURN PREVENTION AND TRAINING CENTER, MA 1991

Education

- Wheelock College, Master of Science, Intergenerational Studies 1994
- College of the Holy Cross, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology with a Gerontology Certificate 1992

Certifications

- Leadership MetroWest Academy, Community & Positive Leadership Program 2017
- Foundation for MetroWest, Leading with Ease Mindful Leadership for Nonprofit Directors 2017
- American Society on Aging, Leadership Certificate 2013
- United Way Voluntary Action Center, Volunteer Management Certificate 1993

Awards

- **Volunteer of the Year**, Metrowest YMCA 2020
- **Innovator of Year Award** to Bridges Together by Massachusetts Councils on Aging, 2017
- **Programs of Distinction** awarded for BRIDGES Program Curricula Suite by Generations United, 2016
- **Elizabeth Peabody Palmer Award** given to Andrea "in recognition of extensive and outstanding work improving the lives of children and their families and demonstrated commitment to finding unity in all types of diversity" by Wheelock College Alumni Association, Boston 2014
- **125 Outstanding Alumni Improving the Lives of Children and Their Families** given to Andrea by Wheelock College 2013
- **Crusader of the Year Award** given to Andrea by Holy Cross Club of Greater Boston 2013
- **Kenneth E. Pickard Municipal Innovation Award** given for the BRIDGES Program to the Town of Sudbury MA by the Massachusetts Municipal Association 2003
- **The R.O.S.E. Award** (Resourceful Opportunities in Serving Elders) given to the Sudbury Senior Center for the BRIDGES Program by the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs 2003

Publications

- Silverstein, N. M., Hendricksen, M., Bowen, L. M., Fonte Weaver, A. J., & Whitbourne, S. K. (2019). Developing an Age-Friendly University (AFU) audit: A pilot study. *Gerontology & Geriatrics Education, 40*(2), 203-220. doi:10.1080/02701960.2019.1572006.
- Fonte Weaver, Andrea J., Andrea Hutter & Beth Almeida, *Intergenerational Programs: The Missing Link in Today's Aging Initiatives 2018*
- Kraemer, S. (2017). Connecting People of All Ages: Founding Intergeneration Day, Intergeneration Month, and Much More. "What Intergenerational Means to Me". Scotts Valley, CA: Createspace Independent Publishing Platform.
- Thompson, E. H., & Weaver, A. J. (2015). Making connections: The legacy of an intergenerational program. *The Gerontologist, 56*(5), 909-918. doi:10.1093/geront/gnv064
- Weaver, A. (2014). Bridges: Growing Older, Growing Together. *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships, 12*(2), 197-201. doi:10.1080/15350770.2014.899827

Peer Reviewer

- *Gerontology and Geriatrics Education* 2017, 2018, 2020

Presentations and Workshops

- Alliance for Retired Americans National Convention 2018
- American International College 2017
- Age & Dementia Friendly Cape Ann Community Summit - Keynote 2019
- American Society on Aging 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019
- Baypath Elder Services, MA 2016
- Beacon Communities 2019
- Boomer Summit, CA 2018
- Boston College 2019
- Boston University, School of Social Work 2017
- Cape Ann Age & Dementia Friendly Conference – Keynote 2019
- Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education, National 2016

- Central Michigan University 2014, 2015
- College of the Holy Cross, MA 1992, 2017
- Emma Willard School, NY 2015
- Encore, Gen2Gen, MA 2017
- Fitchburg Art Museum, MA 2016
- Generations IG Coalition, WI 2016
- Generations United Global Conference 2017
- Girl Scout Patriot Trail Council, MA 1994
- Goodnow Library, Sudbury, MA 2018
- Intergenerational Symposium 2018, 2019
- International Council on Active Aging 2017
- Jenks Center Symposium 2019
- JumpStart Community Corps, National 2014
- Lasell College, MA 2015
- Massachusetts Councils on Aging 2012-2019
- Massachusetts Gerontology Association 2017
- Massachusetts Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Commission 2019
- Massachusetts Intergenerational Network 1994
- Massachusetts Library Association 2014, 2015
- Metrowest Chamber of Commerce 2018
- Metrowest Leadership Academy 2018
- Metrowest Region of Councils on Aging at The Sudbury Senior Center 2012
- NAMP/NANASP (National Senior Meal Program Conference) 1993
- New England Library Association Annual Conference 2015
- Ohio State University 2019
- Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sudbury, MA 2016
- Presbyterian Church in Sudbury, MA 2017
- Regis College, Weston MA 2016
- SEED (Social Enterprise Ecosystem for Economic Development) Summit, RI 2014
- The Prevention Center of Mount Auburn Hospital, MA 1991
- Society of Certified Senior Advisors 2018
- University of Massachusetts – Boston 2017, 2019
- What’s Next Boomer Summit 2018

Selected Presentation & Workshop Topics

Intergenerational Advocacy

- 2025: Get Prepared with Intergenerational Engagement
- Applying an Intergenerational Lens: Creating Age-Integrated Communities
- Building IG Bridges: Strengthening Our People, Organizations & Communities
- Building Communities Across Generations
- Finding Common Ground: Uniting Generations in the Workplace
- Intergenerational Programming Meets Health Equity and Productive Aging
- Intergenerational Mini-Boot Camp: Learning How to Foster IG Opportunities
- Mitigating Ageism: Innovative Intergenerational Approaches

Intergenerational Program Development

- Building IG Bridges: Preventing Ageism and Increasing Wellness

- Engaging the Bookend Generations: Programs that Reach the Youngest and Oldest Patrons
- Fostering an Intergenerational Culture
- From A to Z: Making Intergenerational Programs Easy
- From Nice to Necessary: How to Create Intergenerational Programs that Meet Many Needs
- Give Me Five: 5 Principles of a Successful Intergenerational Program
- Grandparents and Grandchildren: Nurturing These Special Relationships
- Step by Step: The Tools for Building an Effective Intergenerational Program

My Journey

- Be Bold!
- Building IG Bridges: Acting on Ah-Ha! Moments
- Extravagant Love
- My Spiritual Journey: A Lenten Talk
- One Woman’s Campaign to Prepare for 2025

Ministry Experience

Community Member

- ♦ Catholic Community of Gloucester & Rockport, MA 2020 – Present
- ♦ Christian Healing Ministry, Jacksonville, FL 1998 – Present
- ♦ Christ Alive Women’s Bible Study & Prayer Group Member, Sudbury, MA 1994 – 2004, 2019 – Present
- ♦ Women of Faith, Marlboro, MA 2014 – Present
- ♦ Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Sudbury, MA multiple periods from 1982 – 2019
- ♦ 12-Step Program 1988 – 1994, 2013 – 2019
- ♦ Abba’s Kids, an online community 2006 – 2014
- ♦ Holy Family Parish, Concord, MA 2004 – 2010
- ♦ St. Bridget’s Parish, Maynard, MA 1998 – 2004
- ♦ Magnificat Women’s Group, Medfield, MA 1997 – 2002
- ♦ St. Ann’s Parish, Marlboro, MA 1994 – 1997
- ♦ Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Belmont, MA 1970 – 1978, 1992 – 1994
- ♦ College of the Holy Cross, Chaplain’s Office, Worcester, MA 1989 – 1992
- ♦ Catholic University of America - Campus Ministry Program, Washington DC 1988 – 1989
- ♦ The Espousal Center, Waltham, MA 1986 – 1988
- ♦ St. Theresa’s Parish, Watertown, MA 1978 – 1982

Certifications & Coursework

- ♦ Christian Healing Ministry – Schools of Healing Levels 1-3 2020
- ♦ Praying with Children through Guided Meditations 2011
- ♦ Graduate Courses at Boston College on Adolescence & Spirituality, Compassion, and The Saints 2010
- ♦ Archdiocese of Boston, Office of Religious Education, Foundation Theology Catechetical Certification 1999

Spiritual Companionship & Leadership

- ♦ Sponsor in a 12-Step Program
- ♦ Founder Abba’s Kids, an email prayer community
- ♦ Founder, Adult Bible Study & Prayer Group @ St. Bridget’s
- ♦ Founder, Young Adult Group @ St. Ann’s
- ♦ Founder, Bible Study & Prayer Group @ Holy Cross
- ♦ Member of daily Prayer Group @ Catholic University
- ♦ Founder, High School Youth Group @ Our Lady of Fatima

Retreat Work

- ◆ Morning of Reflection Developer & Facilitator @ Women of Faith
- ◆ Retreat Group Leader & Speaker @ Magnificat
- ◆ Planning Team Member for Retreats @ Holy Cross and Catholic University
- ◆ Retreatant @ multiple places
- ◆ RCIA – Retreatant and Presenter @ Catholic University and Our Lady of Fatima
- ◆ High School Retreat Leader @ Our Lady of Fatima
- ◆ Life in the Spirit Retreatant @ The Espousal Center

Planning and Leading Prayer Services

- ◆ Monthly prayer services for racial healing
- ◆ Multiple prayer services @ Christ Alive
- ◆ A 50th wedding anniversary prayer service
- ◆ A 40th wedding anniversary, bi-lingual mass
- ◆ Eucharistic Services @ Holy Cross
- ◆ Reconciliation Services and Stations of the Cross @ Holy Cross
- ◆ Intergenerational Stations of the Cross @ Holy Family
- ◆ Our Nuptial Mass @ Our Lady of Mercy

Program Development & Leadership

- ◆ Curriculum for Generations of Faith Program @ Holy Family
- ◆ Innovative Vacation Bible School including 25 modules and final mass @ Holy Family
- ◆ “Creating a Faith-Journey Scrapbook Album” @ Christ Alive

Healing

- ◆ Book Club Facilitator on *Healing* by MacNutt @ Christ Alive
- ◆ Accompanying people, their loved ones and spirits as they transition from this life to the next
- ◆ Laying on of hands @ Christian Healing Ministries, Christ Alive, Magnificat and Espousal Center

Presentations

- ◆ “Coming to Terms with Dying and Death: The Work Every Adult Must Do” @ dozens of trainings
- ◆ Multiple topics @ Christ Alive
- ◆ Witness at missions, retreats, RCIA programs and evenings of prayer at multiple churches
- ◆ Witness @ St. Matthias’ Memorial Mass for Unborn Children

Author

- ◆ Award-winning manuals and how-to-guides on uniting older people and youth through strong intergenerational programs
- ◆ *Ann’s Weavings: A Blog* as part of Abba’s Kids
- ◆ *Finding an Extraordinary God in an Ordinary Day* – self-published compilation of reflections

Leadership Team

- ◆ Intercessory Prayer Team Leader @ Magnificat
- ◆ Spiritual Development Committee @ Holy Family
- ◆ Core Team Member @ Christ Alive

Service at Mass

- ◆ Eucharistic Minister @ multiple churches
- ◆ Lector @ multiple churches
- ◆ Children’s Liturgy Catechist & Lector @ St. Bridget’s

- ◆ Choir member @ St. Ann's Parish
- ◆ Lay Presider @ Holy Cross
- ◆ Pianist/Song Leader for Family Liturgy @ Our Lady of Fatima
- ◆ Altar Server @ St. Theresa's & Our Lady of Fatima

Circle of Love Cultivator

- ◆ Adoring wife to a modern St. Joseph; Mama Bear to 4 brilliant, brown-skinned sons who are emerging-adults; Devoted daughter to a remarkable, Italian couple; Enthusiastic sister, niece and cousin in a fun, loving, tight-knit crew; Irrationally crazy aunt to many; Adventurous and faithful companion to an amazing God-squad of friends on life's journey
- ◆ A warm demander who mentors people in academic, professional and spiritual settings
- ◆ Gatherer who welcomes all who need a hug, yummy meal or cozy home
- ◆ Quilter who wraps people in love
- ◆ Joyful instrument of God's healing love and grace