

Mayor Liccardo and Community Leaders Host Event to Engage Older Adults in Meaningful Volunteer Opportunities

Generation to Generation campaign inspires older adults to make a positive difference in the lives of children

SAN JOSE, California – On Wednesday, November 8th, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo will join community leaders at an event to engage older adults in the Generation to Generation (Gen2Gen) campaign, which mobilizes individuals over age 50 to volunteer and make a difference in the lives of young people in their community.

This free community event will take place from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the San Jose City Hall Rotunda.

The event will feature resource tables where prospective volunteers will learn about the many ways they can share their skills and talents, and a panel discussion featuring Mayor Liccardo and community leaders highlighting the benefits of intergenerational volunteering.

“The benefits of intergenerational volunteering are immense. Older adults not only enrich their own lives when volunteering with children, they also gain the opportunity to remain productive and engaged in the community,” said San Jose Metro Manager Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester. “AARP studies reveal that increasing interactions with people of all ages can keep older minds active and prevent social isolation. A meaningful engagement like volunteering helps an individual live a longer, healthier life and makes the world a better place.”

One in three young people do not have a mentor or role model in their lives. The Gen2Gen campaign engages older adults in volunteer opportunities that allow them to share their unique skills and talents in order to make a difference in a child’s life and build a stronger community. In partnership with the Mayor’s Office, the City of San Jose is using the Gen2Gen campaign as a conduit for older adults to connect and find youth serving opportunities across a variety of departments and volunteer programs.

“By engaging our city’s older residents as Gen2Gen mentors, we can connect our most vulnerable, low-income youth with an incredible reserve of experience and wisdom,” said Mayor Liccardo. “This type of relationship has proven critical to guiding underserved children toward educational and professional success, while simultaneously offering our older residents – many of whom actively seek these kinds of roles – the opportunity to give back to their community.”

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County is integrating older adult volunteers into their Family Resource Centers, which offer programming and support to help young children and families thrive. FIRST 5 operates family resource centers throughout Santa Clara County, located primarily in low-socioeconomic communities with a disproportionate number of vulnerable children under age 6 and a rising population of isolated, older adults.

“FIRST 5 is building an intergenerational approach to strengthen families and improve the lives of children,” said Jolene Smith, CEO of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. “By leveraging older adults’ experience, talent and knowledge of community resources we are able to reduce social isolation for both seniors and families, while focusing on meeting the developmental needs of our young children.”

The Health Trust, who advocates for older adults, connects them to services, and strengthens their support networks, is also sponsoring the event.

"Empowering older adults and combating social isolation, while imparting wisdom on the youth is a win-win for our community," said Charlie Bullock, Interim CEO of The Health Trust. "The Health Trust has always been committed to serving both older adults and children, and we are proud to strengthen our commitment by supporting the Generation to Generation campaign."

The Generation to Generation Event is free for the public and lunch will be provided to those who register. Please visit <http://bit.ly/gen2genevent> to register and learn more.

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