

Hospitality Across the Generations Reference List

Compiled from Intergenerational Retreat Table Discussions September 29, 2012

Suggestions for connecting with children and/or youth:

- ⤴ Sporting Events (participating and/or spectating)
- ⤴ Attending activities RMC youth participate in (sports, music, dance, art, etc.)
- ⤴ Arts Events (plays, concerts, movies, art shows, museum visits, etc.)
- ⤴ Festivals and special events
- ⤴ Visiting neighbors and/or church members
- ⤴ Childcare for families
- ⤴ Holiday Projects
- ⤴ Service Projects (gleaning, toy drive, CROP walk, MCC school bags, Food Bank, Stop Hunger Now food packaging, etc.)
- ⤴ Picnics
- ⤴ Meals/snacks (at home or restaurants)
- ⤴ Hosting special meals (Mystery Dinner, for example)
- ⤴ Sleepovers
- ⤴ Cooking projects
- ⤴ Camping trip
- ⤴ Outdoor adventure
- ⤴ Sharing hobbies (trains, crocheting/knitting/quilting, Tai Chi, yoga, games/puzzles, nature walks, movies and discussion, cooking, etc.)
- ⤴ Preparing care packages
- ⤴ Pet care
- ⤴ Art projects
- ⤴ Helping with Sunday School, Order of the Mustard Seed, Junior Youth Group, Youth Group, Nursery

Ideas to consider:

- ⤴ Invite another adult (or 2 or 3) to join you in an activity/outing with youth
- ⤴ Invite a junior youth or youth to join you when working with younger children
- ⤴ Think about what you are already involved in, and share your passion

- ⤴ If needed, think about how you might tweak/adapt experiences to be youth-friendly
- ⤴ Parents at RMC highly value intentional intergenerational relationships and what other adults can teach their children
- ⤴ Engaging with children and youth offers a window to observe their growing up years
- ⤴ Engaging with children and youth offers an opportunity to invest in their growing up years
- ⤴ Be intentional about explaining customs and cultural practices as they happen
- ⤴ Work at transitioning our youth to being accepted as adults rather than the children of their parents.
- ⤴ Talk with youth about exploring service opportunities such as Service Adventure, Voluntary Service, SALT, etc.

What do youth and post high school young adults desire from older adults?

- ⤴ Advice and spiritual guidance
- ⤴ Informal conversations
- ⤴ Offering to be a mentor in a more formal relationship
- ⤴ Asking about and showing interest in their life in general
- ⤴ Conversations about:
 - Spiritual practices that the adult finds helpful/important
 - Spiritual interests, journeys, important experiences
- ⤴ Church-wide participation in intergenerational activities and interactions, rather than interaction by just a few
- ⤴ Sharing stories
- ⤴ Talking but not lecturing
- ⤴ Discussion about current experiences not just memories.

Help grow this list! Please send additional suggestions to Anne Cooper at anne.r.cooper@gmail.com