Library partnership kicks off Generation Exchange storytelling project

Recording interviews encourages interaction between youth and older adults

What was it like to grow up in the Kansas City area 50, 60 or even 70 years ago? Through Generation Exchange, a new program offered at area libraries, young people can check out recording equipment to interview their grandparents, neighbors and other older adults, creating a collection of stories and memories that listeners can learn from and share.

Generation Exchange is an intergenerational storytelling project designed to increase social interaction between older and younger generations. Generation Exchange program kits, with instructions, recorders and sample interview questions, can be checked out at participating libraries:

- Kansas City Public Library
- Kansas City, Kansas, Public Library
- Johnson County Library
- Mid-Continent Public Library

Generation Exchange gives older adults in the Kansas City region an opportunity to share their stories and exchange viewpoints with their young interviewers. Program kits can be used by individuals, families, schools or groups, and interviews may be uploaded and archived at the project’s website at http://generationexchange.mymcpl.org. For information on how to participate, contact Cathy Boyer-Shesol at cboyer@marc.org.

Generation Exchange is a collaborative initiative of the Mid-America Regional Council’s KC Communities for All Ages; The Heritage Center; Johnson County Park and Recreation District; Kansas City Public Library; Kansas City, Kansas, Public Library; Johnson County Library; and Mid-Continent Public Library.

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