

Compassionate Community Case Study

CLICK – An Intergenerational Collaboration

Nelson, BC

What you need to know	
Organization	Kalein Centre for Integrated Dialogue, Hospice Care and Education
Website	www.kaleincentre.org
Contact information	Mike Stolte – mike@kaleincentre.org
Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors and youth (high school students) General public (with photos produced through project)
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create intergenerational conversation, linkages and collaboration between seniors and students (Gr. 11) For participants to document the project themes using a camera Through the photographs and dialogue, to make the community aware of important issues like social isolation, compassionate community, gratitude, and resiliency.
A story to share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several students who had previously been closed or guarded about grief and social isolation opened up when the space created was shown to be safe and compassionate Seniors have loved the connection to the students and invited them out to social engagements
Needs/Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social isolation is an increasingly important issue, especially among seniors and youth The project was started to link these two groups and get them to discuss this and other important issues and make the community more aware of them
Outcomes/Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important issues get expressed artistically Rich conversation Exploration of big themes Intergenerational collaboration Bringing the conversation to the community Reduced social isolation Partnerships Fun and laughter

Cost to Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free to attend
What is needed to initiate a similar activity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships (needed: school, seniors' organizations. optional: museum, gallery, library to display photos) Cameras (most everyone has a smart phone, though) A champion in a school (especially, if it fits the curriculum) School space to accommodate a group of up to 25 Someone to facilitate Someone to teach photography Some technical skills (to upload photos to Google Slide) Project can be accomplished with minimal or no budget as long as there is a school champion (teacher) and a facilitator
Existing Toolkit/Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Descriptive PowerPoint slides There are no other resources available at this time
Evaluation/Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project in progress An early version of CLICK has indicated participants really enjoy the intergenerational dialogue around the subjects and the challenge of photographing the themes
Challenges/obstacles	<p>Challenge: Some resistance from students initially around meeting with seniors.</p> <p>We addressed this challenge by: After the first session, much common ground was found on social isolation, which proved key to forging links and collaboration</p>
Learnings/Surprises	<p>The project has provided a safe space where both seniors and students can express themselves and can demonstrate vulnerability</p>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a relatively easy project to run as it allows for visual expression Some adaptations being tested are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Students picking other themes that are important in their lives Seniors and students work in teams to discuss and then go out and photograph the subjects Teaching an advanced photography skill (Miksang – 'good eye' in Tibetan) so that photographs improve Partnerships with seniors' homes around identifying, visiting and documenting those who are lonely in these facilities

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