



# EY2012 Awards

## generations@school



**National Finalist**

**EU Second Place**

**Country: Ireland**

**Title: Living Scenes**

**Submitted by: Millstreet Community School, Cork**

### **Summary:**

Millstreet Community School, "Living Scenes", Cork, Ireland, April 2012



The participants are preparing a ceramic exhibit piece of art for the Living Scenes Art exhibition in their school in May 2012.



European Year for **Active Ageing**  
and **Solidarity between Generations 2012**





The participants are preparing for a metalwork installation which will be part of an intergenerational Art exhibition in their school in May 2012.



Today the Living Scenes group is photographed recording an intergenerational rap as part of their Music module. The participants wrote the lyrics and the music themselves for this recording.

Reflections on Living Scenes 2011/2012 by John Magee (Co-ordinator, Millstreet, Co.Cork)  
We've run the project for seven years in Millstreet. The group of older, retired adults has largely remained the same over that time – roughly ten committed people who have really gained a lot from Living Scenes. The group of Transition Years obviously changes every year, but despite some nervousness at the start they soon throw themselves into what the group has decided to work on. Indeed, apart from a brainstorming session at the start of the year to see what the adults and young people are interested in, the content of the year is largely governed by what the group wants to do. It's down to the facilitators to put a shape on this.

Every year so far, at the end of a module, a special celebration takes place. This gives the chance for the group, their families, friends, and members of the public to see what the group has been up to. In the past they've produced a book of creative writing, performed an updated version of Scrooge, made a CD of songs, created an art and music installation on the theme of leadership, amongst other things. The celebration taking place on 3rd May is entitled, Two Generations, One Road. Since September 2011, the participants have been exploring the idea of crossing the generation gap. They've done this through three media. Firstly, through creative writing. Under the guidance of the author Vincent McDonnell each member of the group, every Thursday, wrote a piece on a variety of topics. These have been collected together and form the basis for the book that I've enclosed entitled Two Generations, One Road. This book will be officially launched on the night during the celebration on 3rd May.

The group have also been working with musicians Evelyn Grant and Gráinne McHale. Both are gifted in their field and are blessed with the personalities to encourage even the most reluctant adult or student to sing or play. They are currently editing an audio visual piece based on bridging the generation gap that will be presented for the first time during the celebration in May. In conjunction with this, the group has had the chance to work with County Cork based 'rapper' Gary McCarthy (or GMC). He worked with the older adults and teenagers on the same theme, and the fruit of this workshop is contained on the CD that I have enclosed also titled 'Two Generations, One Road'. The song only lasts two minutes, but all the words were written and performed by the participants. The final component of the Living Scenes year 2011/2012 has been the work the group has done with two members of staff from our school. Barry Fraser (visual art) and Brian Kelleher (metalwork) formed four intergenerational groups and each of these worked on an idea together to express the notion of crossing the generation gap. They have been using materials such as clay, wood, tiles, glass, metal. The pieces are almost finished and it is hoped that they will be displayed permanently around our school. They will be shown to the public for the first time on 3rd May. I must say that it has been great to see the adults and students working together with drills and angle grinders! Over the seven years that Living Scenes has been in Millstreet, a great many friendships have been formed between the older adults and the eighty students who have taken part in the project over that time. Rather than one group assuming the role of 'expert' on a certain topic, people from both age groups have been given the opportunity to work collaboratively, learning about one another along the way. A lot of misconceptions about 'youth and old age' have been dispelled through the work of the project.

