

Finding a Fountain of Youth: One Intel Retiree's Journey

By Bill MacKenzie

There is, in fact, a fountain of youth. It's the commitment to continuing a vital, consequential life as you age.



Louis Weisberg, who retired from Intel Oregon in June after 20 years as a program manager, is doing just that. He's working part time as an Encore Fellow at Portland, OR-based [Metropolitan Family Service](#) (MFS) to expand volunteer opportunities for people over 50.

During Louis' Intel career, he worked as a Systems Program Manager, Materials Program Manager and Validation Program Manager with EPSP and as a Material Program Manager with PES.

“Although my MFS position is very different from what I did at Intel, I believe the soft-skills I learned like planning, discipline, organization & detail orientation have already proven valuable,” Louis said.

MFS is a non-profit that has been delivering proven programs for 66 years to help people succeed at home, in school and in the community.



Louis meeting with Amy Corbett, Chief Program Officer at Metropolitan Family Service

Encore Fellows are seasoned professionals retiring from successful careers who want to transition into social purpose work. Through the [Encore Fellows Program](#), they are matched with projects at local nonprofits where their professional expertise helps the organizations fulfill their missions.

At MFS, Louis is serving as a Gen2Gen (Generation to Generation) Project Leader, recruiting volunteers for the [AARP Foundation Experience Corps](#), a national intergenerational mentoring program housed locally at MFS.



“The opportunity to apply to the Encore Fellows Program was one of the benefits of Intel's enhanced retirement package,” Louis said. Intel has sponsored dozens of retiree Fellowships that are typically 1,000 hours over 12 months and include a stipend.

The Corps taps into the experience and passion of adults age 50 and over to ensure that every child has a chance to succeed in school and in life. The volunteers work 4-10 hours a week at neighborhood schools, focusing on the development of literacy skills and confidence of children in K-3rd grade.

“After one year, many students who work with mentors achieve as much as a 60% improvement in critical literacy skills compared to their peers,” Louis said. “Experience Corps is a simple but effective anti-poverty strategy.”

Louis is also assisting efforts to increase awareness of the Experience Corps and the opportunities for intergenerational work in the community.

That work is part of a national Gen2Gen campaign sponsored by Encore.org, with a goal of engaging one million adults in the next five years to help young people thrive. The campaign launched November 18, 2016.



“In researching which organization to apply to for my Encore experience, I became interested in the challenges and opportunities represented by the concurrent longevity and demographic changes currently underway,” Louis said. “MFS is a leader in inter-generational and older adult services.”

Louis praised Laura Heller, Metropolitan Family Service’s Older Adult Services Program Manager, who oversees the Experience Corps program, for her patience, guidance, and kindness. “As someone starting a new job with no previous experience in the field, and at a non-profit with the culture differences that entails, I cannot overstate how important that has been for me,” Louis said.

Louis knows his work will make a difference because people with good literacy skills are more likely to have higher self-esteem, better health, better jobs and higher wages.

If you are interested in helping to disrupt the cycle of poverty and make a lasting difference in the lives of Oregon's most vulnerable children, please contact volunteer@mfs.email or call 503-688-1767.



Louis with Laura Heller