The Foundation for Social Connection Unveils Innovative Resource on Generative AI and Youth Social Connection

Backed by expert insight and intergenerational voices, this timely resource offers essential guidance to navigate GenAl's impact on young people's social connection and well-being.

[Washington, D.C.] — Today, the Foundation for Social Connection proudly launches a new resource, Navigating Generative AI and Youth Social Connection Through Intergenerational Conversation, exploring the complex and rapidly evolving relationship between generative AI and young people's social connectedness. Developed in collaboration with intergenerational experts and supported by Pinterest, this resource is designed for parents, educators, and other adults who care for young people to better understand and collectively navigate the impact of AI companions on mental health and social well-being.

Over six months, the Foundation conducted an in-depth exploration into this topic – reviewing emerging research, interviewing leading experts, analyzing online conversations, and co-hosting intergenerational workshops with organizations including <u>Joint Family</u> and <u>The Rithm Project</u>. The result is a dynamic, accessible hub of videos, reflections, strategies, and resources to spark productive conversation between generations and collaborative action.

"As generative AI becomes a bigger part of young people's lives, the question isn't if they'll engage with these tools – but how we show up to support them," said Jillian Racoosin Kornmeier, Executive Director of the Foundation for Social Connection. "This resource invites adults to move beyond fear or avoidance and into meaningful conversation – with curiosity, humility, and respect for youth agency. It's not about making choices for the next generation, but about working with them to strengthen social connection and shape thoughtful solutions together."

Committed to driving change at the individual, interpersonal, and societal levels, this resource aims to:

- **Equip adults with a better understanding** of why young people turn to Al for companionship.
- **Promote open, informed conversations** between young people and caregivers about generative AI for companionship.
- Encourage reflection and joint decision-making around AI companion use to address young people's unmet social and emotional needs

• Challenge stigma, fear, and shame around generative AI to create supportive spaces where young people can sustain and deepen human connections.

The project was supported by Pinterest as part of its commitment to fostering online and offline environments that measurably improve mental health and emotional wellbeing.

"Pinterest believes that adults and young people should feel safe, seen, and celebrated both online and off," said Alise Marshall, Senior Director of Corporate Affairs at Pinterest. "With Al playing a growing role in young people's lives, we are proud to support the Foundation for Social Connection to center empathy, intergenerational conversation, and lived experience to collectively foster a healthier, more positive digital environment."

Explore the full resource and join the conversation at social-connection.ai.

For media inquiries or to speak with our experts on social isolation, loneliness, connection, and Al, please contact Shannon Vyvijal at shannon@social-connection.org.

The <u>Foundation for Social Connection</u> (F4SC) was founded in 2020 with the vision of a vibrant society where social connection is at the heart of how we live. As the leading US organization focused on addressing our crisis of disconnection, our mission is to advance social connection nation-wide rooted in evidence for our collective well-being. Together with our <u>Scientific Leadership Council</u>, <u>Action Network</u>, and <u>partners</u>, we translate research into practice, create long-lasting partnerships and convening opportunities for field builders, and prioritize social connection as a national value powered by lived experiences.