

Adult Docents' insights

after visiting the Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum

"I have been a volunteer at the Kidsbridge Museum for four years. It has been a wonderful and personally rewarding experience. Being able to engage in conversations with students who come to Kidsbridge about topics such as treating others who may be different from you with respect and concern; bullying and how to respond to it; and the importance of standing up for others who may be afraid or unable to stand up for themselves is meaningful. The discussions that occur are an essential, and probably the most important, component of the various activities at the Museum. In the course of these discussions, students learn not only from the docents but from each other.

By having the students respond to questions and express their reactions, thoughts and feelings concerning the situations and the problems presented at the various stations, students become actively engaged in thinking about and developing ways to address these situations and problems. The wonderful reward for me is being able to observe not only how, but oftentimes how well students seek to resolve the situations and problems with which they are presented. It is fulfilling to be able to help guide and encourage them in this process." --Dan Reynolds

"I view volunteering at the Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum as an opportunity to give back. Students come to us with a variety of concerns. We listen and help them come with solutions to deal with situations. I have been fortunate in my career choice and want to return something positive back to the community. We each work to our own strengths and encourage each other for the best results. A perfect combination! Some say, "Why volunteer?" I say, "Why not!" Those of us who choose to volunteer do so with one expectation, to make this a better place to live for us and the future -- which is the next generation." --Edie Serafine

"The days that I volunteer at Kidsbridge are among the highlights of my assorted volunteer experiences. As a retired teacher and religious school principal, I enjoy the interaction with children and being able to make a difference in their lives. The messages of tolerance and compassion that emanate from the activities that children take part in at Kidsbridge are of utmost importance in their social interactions and in their development as caring individuals. I feel privileged to be a part of Kidsbridge." --Fran Amir