

# College Students' reflections

*after visiting the Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum*

"It is an experience that can't be compared to other college classes. I've found that sharing time with the kids was not only beneficial to them but a huge benefit to me."

"While the visiting students seem to enjoy their field trip experience, I think the most beneficial aspect of the Kidsbridge program is that it teaches them about core virtues that will make them better people in whole -- such as respect for others, kindness, responsibility, tolerance, and cooperation. In my interactions with the students, I learned how to be a better person myself. Hopefully I helped the students learn how to be more appreciative of themselves and everyone around them. This program has nothing but positive effects and I hope it continues to grow in the coming years."

"My Museum time with Kidsbridge has allowed me to work with a wide range of children, both in age and socio-economic backgrounds. This variety was helpful for me in developing my skills as an educator! While the lessons we taught were similar for each group it was important to keep in mind the differences between groups in how the material was taught and how it would engage the kids. Working at Kidsbridge I have experience in working through conflict resolutions in a peaceful and cooperative way."

"I leave Kidsbridge not only with the incredible feeling of making a difference, but with a better insight into the minds of children as well. It is an atmosphere of positivity and openness where all children are encouraged to speak up and share. It has taught me on my path to being an educator that every child's opinions and contributions are meaningful and well worth taking the time to listen to. We are constantly bombarded with news stories about children inflicting hurt upon other children, and Kidsbridge is that rare ray of hope working to eliminate this trend, one step at a time."

"Kidsbridge has given me the opportunity to work with children even when I am not in practicum for my education classes, and learn how to teach concepts that are not usually a major part of an elementary school curriculum, but are vital for children to learn in order to be contributing members of society. By listening to the children during discussions at stations about a variety of topics, I have gained a better understanding of how children perceive topics such as discrimination and stereotyping, and I have a greater understanding of the conflicts that children deal with in their everyday lives."

"Now I know why I want to be a teacher in inner city schools--these children need the best teachers. I learned that you never know what a student is going through, and you may not have the answers. However, if you are the person who that child looks to as different, as a safe and secure place from all of the madness in their lives, then you have opened the door. You can make a world of difference."