

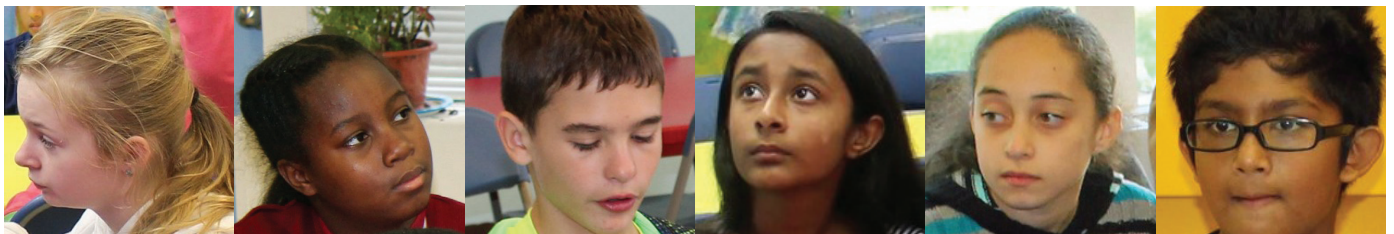


Featuring the Kidsbridge Tolerance Center & Mobile Outreach Programs

## We know you would not walk away from a child being tormented. Here's how you can be an UPstander for kids suffering in silence.

Recent hateful national political rhetoric has created an environment of escalating name-calling, scapegoating, and demonizing, resulting in increased bullying and cyberbullying for our youth.

- An alarming level of fear and anxiety among children of color is rising amidst inflaming racial and ethnic tensions in the classroom. Many students worry about being deported.
- Teachers report an increase in the bullying, harassment and intimidation of students whose races, religions or nationalities have been the verbal targets of candidates. Many targeted youth fear for their personal safety and the safety of others of similar cultural backgrounds.
- There are reports of increased violence and bias against Muslims and LGBTQ students in the U.S. LGBTQ youth, who have been ostracized before, fear that they are even bigger targets now.



## You can do more to support these kids, by helping Kidsbridge reach and educate more youth and teachers in NJ and PA.

Kidsbridge is on the front line helping kids and educating teachers/counselors on how to enhance bullying prevention and diversity appreciation. Each year we inspire and teach 2500 youth and educators in small group discussions in the Tolerance Center or via our new mobile outreach programs.

We know face-to-face interactions led by a trained facilitator help every child participate and feel important, practicing strategies so their 'social-emotional' skill sets are improved for their next challenge. Our activities are fun and interactive, and are continually being updated based on new research findings. Kidsbridge does not believe in assembly programs and 'finger wagging' because neither works. Our teaching methods are effective; participating youth demonstrate improvements in attitude and pro-social actions.

We build up youth by generating empathy and teaching empowerment. These skills are needed to encourage a child to become an UPstander and *'stand up and speak out.'* Don't we need more brave kids like this?

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## Your support enables more youth and educators to learn strategies and gain confidence to 'stand up and speak out' in the face of bias and discrimination

Kidsbridge-trained youth are prepared; the next time they see someone being:

- **Bullied** — they know how to walk a targeted child away or involve an adult
- **Excluded** — they understand the importance of inviting that person into their group to make them feel welcome
- **Teased or called a mean name** — they are prepared to make choices to act safely and with confidence

Did you know stress levels are rising for our children? To address this problem, Kidsbridge has created new mindfulness activities to teach kids how to relax, reduce stress/conflict situations and become UPstanders for themselves.

Starting this kind of education early on is fundamental. Kidsbridge programs are developmentally appropriate for youth from preschool to eighth grade. Because research shows that bullying tendencies begin at age three, shouldn't we begin the education process sooner? Shouldn't we start before they become teenagers...and then adults?

### PLEASE DON'T WALK AWAY!

Become an UPstander by donating now! Your support will enable us to get more kids and educators proficient and empowered with stronger social-emotional skills in **empathy, empowerment, moral reasoning, stereotype awareness, and diversity**. These attitude improvements are the foundation upon which we create caring human beings that are UPstanders — so necessary in today's social climate.

### PLEASE DON'T DELAY! MATCHING GIFT DEADLINE IS JUNE 30!

Now is the time to teach our children the skills, attitudes, and competencies to 'walk in the shoes of others,' to speak out against bullying, make responsible, caring choices, and solve problems peacefully — so they can become the architects of a kinder, more respectful society.

With deepest appreciation for your support,

*Lynne Azarchi*

Lynne Azarchi, Executive Director

**P.S.** This just in! We just received a MATCHING CHALLENGE GIFT from one of our donors. If you contribute before **JUNE 30**, our special donor will match your support dollar-for-dollar. That means your donation will be doubled!

**P.P.S.** Only \$25 per month (i.e. monthly giving) enables us to educate 12 new youth and their teacher. Please make a difference in the lives of NJ's children with one quick "Yes, because I AM an UPstander too!"

#### Donating is easy.

Mail your check, made out to **Kidsbridge**, in the attached envelope. Prefer an online option?

Visit

**[www.kidsbridgecenter.org](http://www.kidsbridgecenter.org)** and click on the green **DONATE** button. Remember, your donation is tax deductible.