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 Muslim, Jewish, and LGBTQ students in the U.S. LGBTQ youth, who have been ostracized before, fear that they are even bigger targets now.
Your support enables more youth and educators to learn strategies and gain confidence to become UPstanders who ‘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

In addition, 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.

**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.**

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.** Great news! We received a MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE from one of our donors. If you contribute before JUNE 30, our special donor will generously match your gift dollar-for-dollar. That means YOUR donation will be doubled!

**P.P.S.** Consider monthly giving!