In spite of concerted efforts, bullying and intolerance persist. Cyberbullying is on the rise, and with recent racial/stereotype/bias incidents nationwide, the need for diversity appreciation education is compelling. Kidsbridge needs your support more than ever!

**Individual Donations**

Be an UPstander! By donating now, your contribution will help us empower more youth to embrace diversity rather than fearing it. We aspire to provide students with the tools they need to act with respect and kindness — both in their classrooms and at home. Students who master the social and emotional learning (SEL) competencies have significantly better school attendance records, exhibit fewer disruptive behaviors, are more motivated to learn, and perform better in school.

Companies often have matching gift programs. Ask if your (or your spouse’s) employer has one and make your personal donation extend even farther! Donating online is safe and easy on our website: [www.kidsbridgecenter.org](http://www.kidsbridgecenter.org).

**What Educators Say!**

“Thank you for the opportunity to visit Kidsbridge. This is, by far, the best and most effective trip I have taken my students on in my thirteen years of teaching.”

— Teacher, Middle School

“As a result of their visit to Kidsbridge, our students have been equipped to practice the skills of cooperation, negotiation, empathy, and anger management. The qualities that they have obtained will help them educationally and socially.”

— Counselor, Elementary School

**What Kids Say!**

“Thank you for teaching me the good things that I had to learn about not to bully people because it’s not nice to bully or be mean to people. I should respect people and never hurt anyone.”

— Tanisha, 4th grade

“It affected me a lot because all my life I have had problems with people making fun of me. And now I know that there are other people out there that are dealing with what I deal with. I don’t feel so alone.”

— David, 7th grade

**Call for Volunteers**

If you enjoy working with youth and have a flexible schedule, we may have a volunteer position for you! Retirees and former educators, we can train you to be a program facilitator to lead activities and discussions with youth.

Since its beginning in 1996, Kidsbridge has been a leader in character education, diversity appreciation, and bullying prevention. We offer developmentally appropriate programs to educate youth attending preschool through eighth grade — during the regular school day, afterschool, on weekends, and during the summer. We educate as many individuals as possible about empathy, empowerment, and social-emotional skills through games, role-play, puppetry, and small group discussions.

**KIDSBRIDGE EVENTS AND AWARDS**

**Humanitarian Awards Celebration**

For eleven years, Kidsbridge has honored local business, corporate and educational leaders for our main annual fundraising event. Honorees have made significant contributions to our community, thus embracing Kidsbridge’s mission of empathy, diversity appreciation and respect for all persons.

**Annual Educator Leadership in Character Education Awards**

Kidsbridge funds an annual, statewide contest to recognize educators who are leaders in their schools in the areas of character education, diversity appreciation, and bullying prevention. Nominated by coworkers, the three winners are regaled for their excellence.

**TESTIMONIALS**

**THE KIDSBRIDGE TOLERANCE CENTER & MOBILE OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

**Problem:** Bullying. Teasing. Name-calling. Exclusion. Meanness. Kids need a supportive, experience-rich environment where they can engage in discussions that will encourage kindness, inspire empathy, and help empower them to become UPstanders.

**Solution:** Kidsbridge is exactly the organization to help! Recognizing a need to enhance character education, the Kidsbridge Tolerance Center was created in 2006. It was then and still is the only youth-dedicated tolerance learning center in the U.S.

Utilizing our successful model of engaging small group discussions and fun, hands-on activities led by facilitators, youth learn strategies for dealing with negative and difficult situations. Kidsbridge has developmentally appropriate programs for preschool through eighth grade, and offers them in the Tolerance Center or mobile to classrooms, youth groups, or camps.

Empathy. Empowerment. Diversity Appreciation. Bias Awareness. Respect. Kids explore these topics when participating in a Kidsbridge program. Attitudes are examined and pro-social skills are reinforced to positively impact their behavior and better equip them to face future bullying or diversity challenges.

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**What Kids Say!**

“I learned that one small voice can make a difference in someone’s life. From offering a bus seat to telling someone to stop teasing, we can make the world a better place.”

— Taquan, 5th grade

**Contact Us**

**Kidsbridge**

Tolerance Center

999 Lower Ferry Rd

Ewing, NJ 08628-3228

609-771-0300

(Located in the Ewing Senior & Community Center)

Lynne Azarchi

Executive Director

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[www.kidsbridgecenter.org](http://www.kidsbridgecenter.org)

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Kidsbridge is a 501(c)3 nonprofit started in 1996. The Kidsbridge mission is to educate and empower children and youth through character education, diversity appreciation, and social-emotional learning training. The purpose is to create empathetic individuals and caring citizens who live their lives without prejudice or discrimination and who are positive advocates for themselves and others.

Kidsbridge programs are dynamic and continually evolving, incorporating the latest research that reflects the ever-changing challenges facing both educators and students. Evidence-based programs are developmentally appropriate for preschool through eighth grade. Group visits to the Tolerance Center are by appointment only.

Curriculum-focused programs are designed to reinforce students’ knowledge of social-emotional concepts. Kidsbridge facilitators are also educated and provided with research and activities so the concepts can be reinforced and learning continues after their ‘Kidsbridge experience.’

Preschool/Kindergarten/1st Grade
In this program, children will:
- Be educated through games, music, and movement
- Problem solve, embrace diversity, welcome and include others, identify feelings, and mindfulness
- Have fun visiting “Kidsbridge Town” and learning with the Kidsbridge Diversity Doll Friends

2nd through 8th Grades
Kidsbridge offers two options for educating students in grades two through eight — in the Tolerance Center OR via the Mobile Outreach Program at their schools. In both cases, facilitators lead small group discussions and hands-on, interactive activities. This format is designed to make youth feel safe, maximize participation, and encourage students to draw their own pro-social conclusions. Both programs satisfy NJ State requirements for bullying prevention and diversity.

In the Tolerance Center
Kidsbridge can host up to 40 students in a single, four-hour visit. As part of the morning session, small groups of students rotate through five different stations, spending 20 minutes focusing on different subject matter (listed on panel at far left). Each station is led by a facilitator who encourages the practice of strategies along with targeted discussions to reinforce concepts.

Conflict Resolution Puppet Shows
For grades 3-6, students create stick puppets and perform skits to demonstrate skills learned.

Action Plans
For grades 6-8, students examine a problem/challenge that exists either at school or in the community, and take these plans back to school for further review/discussion.

All Kidsbridge programs are developmentally appropriate, which maximizes participation and learning. Kidsbridge programs incorporate CASEL’s SEL/Social-Emotional Learning Competencies — to educate the whole child! Teachers/counselors are also educated and provided with research and activities so the concepts can be reinforced and learning continues after their ‘Kidsbridge experience.’

Via the Mobile Outreach Program
Kidsbridge facilitators travel to the school to educate youth in their own classrooms. Kidsbridge presents subject matter (listed on panel at far left) in different sessions on five separate visits — meaning that the same students are educated five different times.

As with the program offered in the Tolerance Center, the facilitators encourage students to identify and practice strategies, discussing important social-emotional learning concepts while engaging in fun activities.

PROOF OUR PROGRAMS WORK
Kidsbridge partners with TCNJ/The College of New Jersey’s Psychology Department to measure improvements in social-emotional skills using pre- and postVisit surveys and sophisticated software to analyze the results. Our program has achieved evidence-based status because youth demonstrate statistically significant gains in attitudes and knowledge for:

- Empathy
- Empowerment
- Moral reasoning
- Religious diversity
- Stereotype awareness
- Mindfulness

ADDITIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS
In-Classroom Presentation on Genocide, the Holocaust and Becoming UPstanders
Trained facilitators present interactive programs tailored for elementary or middle school students. Lessons for the younger students utilize the book The Terrible Things by Eve Bunting, and older students review genocide examples from history along with discussing ongoing conflicts. Both programs yield improved social-emotional skills relating to these difficult subjects.

Lunch ‘N Learn Workplace Bullying Presentation
During the lunch hour, Kidsbridge will come to your workplace to present strategies and helpful tips for dealing with bullying at work and online. The program will also offer advice for parents to help their children deal with bullying. Participants will learn how to identify the qualities of bullies, targets, bystanders, and UPstanders.