



# Bridges

A School Inter-Group Relations Program

Improving inter-group relations by partnering with schools and communities to create, advocate for and sustain a safe, inclusive and equitable campus climate that is respectful of society's diversity.

## 2010-11 Annual Report

# BRIDGES: School Inter-group Relations Program

Better  
Place for OUR  
children, & children's  
children!  
-Ana M.

To treat every human  
being equal.  
-Ana P.

My dream is to  
have a peaceful  
WORLD!!!

Dream wall at Loara High School, MLK Day 2011

In spring 2011, the BRIDGES Program at Savanna High School revealed a new campaign to increase respect and acceptance on campus. The eye-catching title "No B.S." stands for **No Bullying or Stereotyping**. More than 60 students and staff shared their personal stories and experiences on the topic, which were then made into posters that were hung around campus.



This is just one example of the way BRIDGES and Orange County Human Relations has responded to bias-related and violent incidents on Orange County campuses. For over 20 years, BRIDGES has helped rebuild cohesion and a sense of community among students, staff and parents.

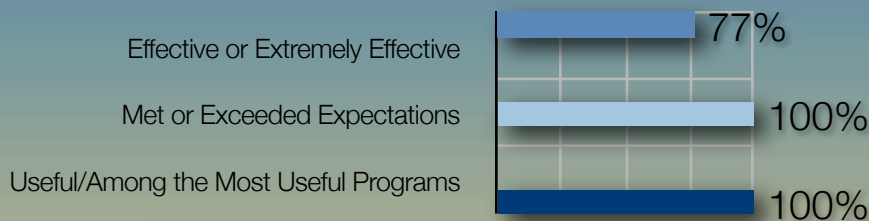
BRIDGES, a multi-year school inter-group relations and violence prevention program that partners with schools to create, advocate for and sustain a **safe, inclusive and equitable campus climate** that respects society's diversity.

BRIDGES empowers members of the campus community to address the human relations needs on their campus. They acquire the **skills to work with a diversity of people** while improving the human relations climate on campus.

Each BRIDGES school site partners with BRIDGES Staff to form a core group of students and adult allies who drive the program. They are continually supported by BRIDGES staff and trained to develop a campus-wide human relations plan that supports a safe, welcoming and equitable learning environment for all students.

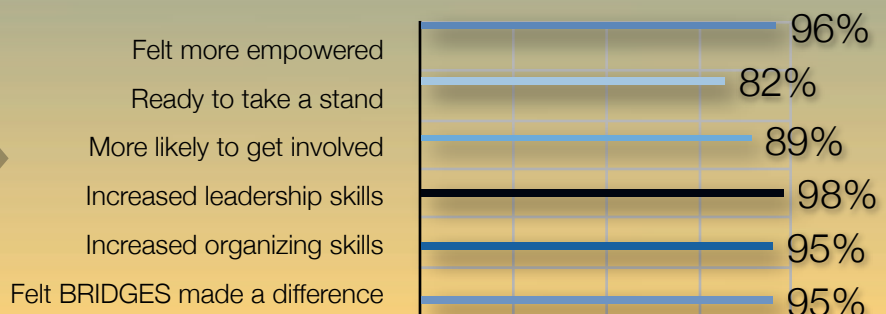
## BRIDGES Evaluations

Each year we ask BRIDGES Participants to share how they feel about their experience in the program. Here are the results.



Interview responses from the Administrators and Staff involved in the 2010-2011 BRIDGES Program.

Survey responses from a sample of students who participated in the 2010-2011 BRIDGES Program.



# Highlights ▶ 2010-2011

## 40,520 Total Participants

Students, staff, administrators, parents & community members.

## 20 Program Schools

From 11 Districts and 14 Cities.

## 74 Campus-wide Initiatives

Reached over 22,000 students with messages of respect and equality.

## 36 Day-long Student Retreats

Provide human relations awareness, knowledge & skills to youth.

## 550 Conference Attendees

Walk in My Shoes Annual Youth Conferences.

## 7 Leadership Trainings

Including Mediation, Facilitation and Summer Camp Leadership Trainings.

## 63 Trained Mediators

Completed two-days of peer mediation training.

## 25 Skills for Success Grads

12 week training to enhance goal setting and decision making skills.



Mix-it-Up Lunch at La Quinta High School

### What students are saying...

"[BRIDGES] helped us get to know each other, and we understood where each of us was coming from, so we felt SAFE knowing we had someone to go to."  
-Student, Western HS

"[BRIDGES] has created events that include everyone and make them feel like their differences are their greatest attributes."  
-Student, Los Amigos HS

"The BRIDGES Program has helped my school by showing you how to stand up for bullying and be against hate. Plus I really enjoyed the times I came to BRIDGES it made me feel more mature and safe. I love BRIDGES and it makes my school a better place."  
-Student, Valadez MS Academy

"I've learned that even everyday words that I used unconsciously can take a huge toll on one's emotions and actions...I've learned to become a better person, more social and a more prepared leader!  
-Student, Newport Harbor HS

"I met many friends and became more confident about myself. BRIDGES helped me to become more of a leader and I feel like [it] made me feel at home."  
-Student, Sycamore Jr. High

"I learned much more about myself as well as my peers that now stand next to me. I was able to participate in events and activities...As I grow, I see that my school has so much potential to grow as well.  
-Student, Savanna HS

"It helped me learn something far beyond the ideas from BRIDGES. I learned how to recognize, empower more students to make lasting changes for future generations."  
-Student, La Quinta HS

## 2010-2011 Participating Schools

Anaheim HS  
Anaheim Community Day School  
Ball Jr. High  
Buena Park Jr. High  
Corona del Mar HS  
Cypress HS  
Fountain Valley HS  
Fullerton HS  
Huntington Beach HS  
Katella HS  
La Quinta HS  
Loara HS  
Los Amigos HS  
Magnolia HS  
Newport Harbor HS  
Savanna HS  
Servite HS  
Sycamore Jr. High  
Valadez MS Academy  
Western HS

### The BRIDGES Team is:

Seema Bhakta  
Don Han  
Maricela Jauregui  
Eric Lam  
Alison Edwards  
Kristian Vallee

## BRIDGES Summer Camp

*Young Leaders go to BRIDGES Boot Camp*

OC Human Relations offered two dynamic student-leadership camps for 40 diverse BRIDGES Program students at the BearPaw Preserve in the San Bernardino mountains. Students participated in dialogues and skill building exercises about human relations and social justice issues. They learned mediation and negotiation techniques as they developed the skills to organize their peers and take a stand against hate and violence, combat injustice and create schools and communities that are safe, inclusive and equitable for ALL students.



## OC Youth Organizers

*Student Leaders Making a Difference*



Orange County Youth Organizers is a year-long internship that provides advanced human relations training to a diverse cross-section of Orange County youth. Students meet monthly to discuss social justice issues, learn new skills and develop

workshops and community presentations. OCYO members are expected to take these skills back to their schools to empower the efforts of their peers in creating safe, inclusive and equitable school campuses.

## Walk In My Shoes Conference

*Over 550 students attend*

Middle and high school students from throughout OC came together for the 22nd annual Walk In My Shoes Youth Conference in November 2010 to explore issues of identity and culture, develop their leadership skills and be exposed to examples of successful youth activism. Held at UC Irvine, the goals of WIMS is to empower and mobilize students to work towards creating positive social change. WIMS continues to be a favorite event among Orange County's students and teachers.



## YouthSpeak Speech Contest

*"I can change the world and together we can stop bullying."*

When we asked OC students, "Why and how are youth the right people to put an end to bullying?" 70 local students submitted their answers. OC students in grades 8-12 were invited to prepare a short speech about ending bullying.

Through the generous donations of our Board Members and Community Partners, finalists Jimmy Tran of Magnolia High School and Bushra Malik of Sunny Hills High School received \$250 scholarships and winner Elisa Rodriguez of Western High School received at \$500 scholarship.



## Thank you to our Community Partners

### Titanium- \$25,000 and above

Archstone Foundation  
Communities for All Ages  
Hoag Presbyterian Hospital  
ING Foundation  
St. Joseph Health System Foundation

### Platinum -\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Judy and Keith Swayne  
OC Community Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
William Witte

### Gold - \$5,000- 9,999

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City National Bank  
Corinthian Colleges  
Disney VoluntEARS  
Edison International  
Greater Horizons  
Jasjit and Gurpreet Singh Ahuja  
Kimberly and Jeffery Goh  
Klein Family Foundation  
Mission Hospital  
Pacific Life Foundation  
SDG&E and the Gas Company  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
Susan and John Reese  
William Gillespie Foundation

### Silver- \$2,500- 4,999

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Cal State University Fullerton  
Chapman University

Christ Our Redeemer AME Church  
Chun-Ha Insurance Services  
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS Foundation  
Fieldstone Foundation  
Gregory McQuater  
Islamic Center of Orange County  
Kimberly Aoyama  
McQuen and Ashman LLP  
NOC Community College District  
OC Credit Union  
Podlich Family Fund  
Rachel Lynch  
Schools First Credit Union  
The California Endowment  
University of California, Irvine

### Bronze- \$1,000 to 2,499

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