



July 18-22/August 1-5, 2011

"Being a part of the BRIDGES camp was a life changing experience. I learned so much and got to meet wonderful students who had the same beliefs and goals I did."

WHAT IS YOUTH ORGANIZING CAMP?

- The BRIDGES Summer Camps are intense, weeklong, overnight camps that bring together youth from diverse backgrounds to develop their youth organizing skills.
- Students are trained to organize their peers to take a stand against hate and violence, combat prejudice and create schools and communities that are safe and equitable for ALL.
- This summer OC Human Relations offered two dynamic camps for OC high school students who have been active members of their School's BRIDGES Task Force.
- The camps offered challenging and fun hands-on activities, multi-media presentations, role-plays, skill-building and outdoor activities.



WHO ATTENDED?

35 students attended two camps. Students came from Anaheim, Corona del Mar, Newport Harbor, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Tustin, Cypress, Westminster, Stanton and Long Beach. The majority of students are leaders in their school's BRIDGES Program. Camp attendees pay \$100 to attend, however this summer, 54% of the students were from low income families and through the generosity of our sponsors were each provided with partial scholarships to help cover that cost. OC Human Relations raises virtually the entire remaining cost of the program, about \$1,000 per student.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the camp. I would TOTALLY come back next year. THANK YOU OC HUMAN RELATIONS!"

"I think BRIDGES is very important to young people, because it's one of only a few clubs that support them mentally and teach them skills to empower others"



WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN AT CAMP?

The camps were specifically designed for students in BRIDGES Program schools who intend to play a leadership role in the coming school year. Camp graduates are expected to return to their schools and work to empower and invigorate the school's BRIDGES Task Force. The camp curriculum, developed by members of OC Human Relations' School Intergroup Relations team, is based on the model of the Martin Luther King Center's Six Steps for Nonviolent Social Change. Using lecture, role-plays, and interactive sessions students were taught the theory and skills necessary to plan and implement a campaign. Topics included issue identification, base-building, power analysis, negotiating, direct action and reconciliation.



WHAT DO STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT CAMP?



"Bridges camp is super duper fun and educational. I learned a lot about organizing and what it takes to be a good organizer."

"The Bridges camp opened my mind in ways I could never imagine. This gives us a time to express our ideas and be with people who share the same interests and values. One word that describes this camp would be simply: Empowering."

"Bridges Camp has been truly an unforgettable experience. I never thought that I would ever experience something like this. It has totally changed my perspective of everything in my life."

"Coming to camp, I was initially very nervous as I am not a part of the BRIDGES program. Looking back, I am so glad by my decision to attend. I was able to delve into topics that I am passionate about and realized that I truly can make a difference."

"From this camp I take away new friends and the confidence and power to make change in my community."

"Thank you for sponsoring such an amazing camp!! It is very appreciated and I would like you to know that this camp created a great group of youth to grow and learn."

