



# Bridges

A School Inter-Group Relations Program

## Safety



**Mission** to improve inter-group relations by partnering with schools and communities to create, advocate and sustain a safe, inclusive school climate that respects society's diversity.

## Scope of Services

**Principal and leadership consultation:** In order to introduce the program in depth, assess school needs and identify individual objectives.

**Creation of school human relations task force:** A group comprised of teachers, parents, students and administrators is established to be the core of the efforts on campus. The task force identifies needs and establishes short and long term goals and objectives to improve human relations climate on campus.

**All day student retreats** at the middle and high school levels that aim to increase awareness of self and others, encourage dialogue about issues of race, class, sexism, gender roles and identity and assess the inter group relations climate. The retreats also build capacity for the task force's efforts.

**Development of school wide initiatives** in collaboration with participants that share the retreat and task force's message with everyone on campus. Participants are exposed to strategic planning and project management and leadership skills.

**Staff Development sessions** on human relations issues and concepts, curriculum development, tools for dealing with prejudice in the classroom and cross-cultural communication. Follow up consultation on planning campus activities and diversity education is also included.

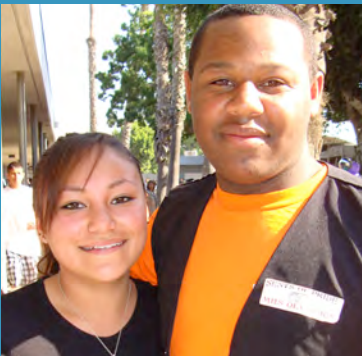
**Skill Development and Training** empower members of the Task Force and the campus community with the skills and knowledge to make positive contributions on campus and in the community:

- Facilitation Training
- Conflict Management
- Parent Leadership
- Topic Specific Presentations i.e. AB 537 and Safe Schools Legislation, Understanding Poverty, Team Building, Parent Rights and Responsibilities

## Inclusion



## Equity



# COUNTY-WIDE PROGRAMS

## **BRIDGES Summer Camp**

The BRIDGES Camp is a weeklong, overnight camp that brings together youth from diverse backgrounds to participate in activities and dialogues about human relations and social justice issues. Participants are challenged to think about ways to break barriers, combat prejudice and take a stand against hate and violence in order to make Orange County a better place for ALL people to live, work and do business. The BRIDGES Camp uses hands-on activities, multi-media presentations and even campfires and hikes to prepare young people to be leaders that will build BRIDGES of understanding and help keep our schools and neighborhoods free from violence and intolerance.

## **Human Relations Associates Program**

This yearlong internship designed to provide advanced human relations training and skills to a diverse cross section of Orange County youth. The Associates Program is for young people who are looking to take the next step by turning their belief in equality and respect into action. Associates meet monthly with discuss ideas, develop a support network and reach out to others with the message of respect, understanding and social justice.

## **Human Relations Awards - School Category**

For the past decade OC Human Relations has recognized schools that have made an exceptional contribution to promoting, nurturing, protecting and/or cultivating a campus climate that is safe, inclusive and respectful of diversity. Nomination forms for the Awards are distributed in January or February of each year and the event is held the first Thursday in May.

The schools that are chosen to receive this prestigious award receive a trophy, individual certificates for each student involved in the school's program, 10 tickets to the Award Gala, as well as recognition in the media and at Walk In My Shoes. The Human Relations Awards are an excellent way to motivate and recognize the work of the members of your Task Force.

## **Walk In My Shoes Symposiums**

These annual conferences bring together students and teachers from schools across OC to learn about the challenges of our changing demographics and to develop enthusiasm and skills for working collaboratively to create and sustain a safe, inclusive, respectful campus and community climate.

Separate conferences are held for High Schools and Middle Schools – the event for the former typically being held in November and the later in February/March. Students are able to choose from a variety of workshops that build awareness, empathy and skills. An emphasis is placed on providing an opportunity for students to deliver workshops; BRIDGES Program schools have frequently participated as both presenters and attendees.

Walk In My Shoes is a great way to energize and involve key members of your school community. BRIDGES Program schools have the opportunity to bring up to 20 participants at no charge.

For more information contact:

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