



Empowering young people, teachers and parents to be leaders in building safe and inclusive school communities.

Everyone Counts, Everyone Belongs

Community Builders is a not-for-profit organization with charitable status, established in 1994. We have worked throughout Ontario fostering caring, inclusive school communities in which racism, sexism and other types of oppression are addressed constructively by community members.

We have trained thousands of young leaders who have delivered classroom workshops and assemblies in over 100 public, Catholic and First Nations schools.

Proactive Approach – Sparks of Courage

The Canadian Public Health Association has stated that “Bullying, sexual harassment and racial discrimination are major public health problems in Canada’s elementary, middle and high schools”. 40% of students witness their peers being bullied, taunted and discriminated against, but rarely intervene because they are afraid or don’t know what to do.

Our preventive and proactive programs teach young people that they are accepted and valued for who they are and that *their* leadership can create caring communities. Our goal is to ignite sparks of courage that create positive change in school culture.



Caring is Cool!

Through curriculum units that include music, storytelling, drama and visual arts, Community Builders engages the hearts of participants by drawing on their life experiences as they explore topics such as being friends and allies, confronting racism, powerful listening, “busting” stereotypes and facing the challenge of conflict resolution.

We teach students, parents and teachers how to defuse negative situations by showing caring to everyone – perpetrators and victims alike. They come to understand that people hurt others because they have been hurt themselves, and *they learn skills to stop the meanness without being mean back.*

Teams of Young Leaders

Stepping in to help someone who is being bullied, teased or excluded isn’t easy for anyone – adults or students. By including parents and teachers in our training sessions, we develop a community of caring where young leaders are supported by adult allies.

We “train the trainer,” giving students the knowledge and confidence to lead Community Builders workshops at school and to use their skills with peers and family members. In this way, *young people lead the way to change.*



Who We Are

Community Builders was founded by Bo-Young Lim, Eileen Nemzer, Janis Galway and Jerry Brodey - a committed group of educators with extensive experience in teaching, counseling, and working through the arts with children. Two of the founders now direct the skilled and diverse teams of Community Builders associates who deliver our programs in different Ontario regions.

The staff is supported by a voluntary Board of Directors, chaired by Alika Jean-Jacques, Staff Lawyer at Legal Aid Ontario.



With Community Builders, I learned a lot about making allies. It's really fun, because we get to be the teachers. We teach kids to be allies, and they teach others – it goes on and on!"

- Chayna, Grade 5, Toronto



Tested and Proven Programs

Classroom workshops such as *Friends and Allies*, *The Cool Trap* and *Boys and Girls in a Box*, are fun and effective programs that can be tailored to elementary or high school classes.

Friends and Allies Assemblies for primary grades use music and skits to teach students how to be allies. Student leaders can be trained to help run these assemblies.

Youth Leadership Institutes bring together teams of students from neighbouring schools. Students, Lead Teachers and Lead Parents attend Institutes where student leaders learn to deliver workshops and implement inclusive school projects.

Teacher Trainings are half- to full-day team-building workshops that introduce Community Builders leadership skills and concepts for versatile classroom use.

Parent and School Council Workshops are single evening or day-long sessions or series of trainings which help parents work as a team to build a strong and healthy school community.

Cross-generational Dialogues bring students and adults together to discuss the roots of bullying and conflict, and how to address these social problems on a community-wide level.



Community Builders Youth Leadership

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Visit us on Facebook

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Exciting Results

"Community Builders was a great help for me in my high school career. By teaching me to take an active role in my community and listen to others, it helped me enjoy school academically and socially."

- Jason, high school student, Brantford

"This is first time attending this kind of workshop...and I came to know different issues that kids face in different age groups and best of all, how to deal with these issues."

- Parent, Scarborough elementary school

"This approach goes beyond what other programs teach. In Community Builders, students find out that people act out of their pain. The program empowers them with this – more than any other program."

- Juliet Morales, Vice Principal, Toronto

"I use my new skills when people get into fights. I used to yell at them, but it made them more angry and they started picking on new people. Now I talk and listen to them."

- Adrian, Grade 5 student leader, Sudbury

"I think Community Builders is an essential program because it has helped hundreds of students realize who they really are and be proud of it."

- Grade 6 student leader, Manitoulin Island

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Community Builders is registered with the Ontario Ministry of Education as an effective anti-bullying program. We are past recipients of an Award of Distinction from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation for national excellence in race relations programming. The Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE) has invited us to present annual workshops on our leading edge equity work.