



Together We Can
#JusticeForAll

Summer
2017

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE FOR EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE, IN REAL LIVES

32nd Building Bridges Camp Season Reaches 489 Youth!



In May, Building Bridges program volunteers and staff celebrated the successful end of the 2016-2017 camp season. This year, four camps were held at Pilgrim Pines Camp and Alpine Meadows Camp Retreat Center, serving a total of **489** students from high schools across Southern California with 150 volunteers!

As the political climate has shifted in recent months, volunteers have strengthened their resolve and their dedication to the fight against bias and bigotry. Now, more than ever, spaces like Building Bridges

Camp are needed to help everyday Americans create real unity by facing the injustices that divide our nation. Our volunteers play a critical part in this work, providing immense support to our campers and helping to create spaces where brave and honest dialogue can blossom.

To honor the hard work and heart work of our Building Bridges volunteers, CCEJ hosted their annual Thank You Celebration. Volunteers were thanked with certificates and special gifts to celebrate their work over the past year. Staff relaxed

with one another, ate delicious food provided by Michael Ihm from South Shore Deli Provisions and Mary Ellis, Director of Sales Premier Sales Solutions, two of this year's Food and Beverage Industries Humanitarian Awards honorees. They celebrated one another's commitment to creating a more just and inclusive society. CCEJ Executive Director, Kimmy Maniquis, also shared some words during the celebration, uplifting the hope that our volunteers bring to fulfill CCEJ's mission and vision.

To become a part of this work, please consider connecting with us via our Building Bridges Leadership Academy www.cacej.org/events/building-bridges-academy/ or the Bridge Builders Network for past Camp alumni www.cacej.org/bbalumni/. You can also become a member of CCEJ and help us reach more schools, more students, and more communities as we build an America that includes all of us.



SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WWW.CACEJ.ORG



For over 10 years, CCEJ has offered graduate students from local universities the opportunity to intern as part of their Masters in Social Work program. This past year, three students joined the CCEJ team: Justan Torres and Vanessa Ayala joined CCEJ from CSULA and Stephanie Velasquez from CSULB. All three came with experience and a passion for justice. Their time spent with CCEJ involved working with the Building Bridges and the Restorative Justice Programs. CCEJ strives to provide each intern with the opportunity to connect and integrate theories daily by working with staff.

"My goal in becoming an intern at CCEJ was to learn more about becoming a macro-focused social worker. CCEJ met and surpassed my goals as a great internship placement." – Stephanie Velasquez

"I learned the importance of human relationships, building community and healing relationships in a holistic way. I gained insight on the different interventions that can be utilized to successfully fulfill individual's needs while being accountable as an individual and as a community." – Vanessa Ayala

Interning at CCEJ



Vanessa Ayla, Justan Torres and Stephanie Velasquez

Their contributions and passion for justice has been most appreciated. CCEJ congratulates each of them on their achievements and wishes each of them the best!

54TH Annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner

CCEJ's 2017 Humanitarian Award was given to three distinguished honorees, Theresa Bixby, Michele Dobson, and Don & Carl Ann Wylie for their advancement of the mission of CCEJ, their many civic contributions, and their lifelong commitment to humankind. The evening opened up with remarks from Los Angeles Supervisor for the Fourth District, Janice Hahn, who presented Gene Lentzner with a proclamation recognizing his 95th birthday and 40 years of service to the City of Long Beach and CCEJ. CCEJ also recognized the **Rotary Club of Long Beach** with the Building Bridges Award for their support of the vision of CCEJ and for valuing diversity and the worth of every individual. This year saw the introduction of the inaugural **Henry Meyer Youth Award**, awarded to Building Bridges Youth Leader Adonis Rubio.



Mayor Robert Garcia and Theresa Bixby



Michele Roberge and Michele Dobson



Don and Carl Ann Wylie and Jill Rosenberg



Supervisor Janice Hahn and Gene Lentzner



Craig Cross and Jayne Lastusky



Terry Geiling and Adonis Rubio

LBUSD Restorative Justice Spotlight

Reflecting back on the 2016-2017 school year, CCEJ would like to thank the members of LBUSD for a successful year in partnership. We have accomplished much thus far, and we look forward to continuing the work of transforming lives through restorative practices.



CCEJ provided restorative justice services during the 2016-2017 school year to:

- Augustus, Hawkins High School
- Humanitas Academy of Arts & Technology
- Green Dot Public Schools
- Comino Nuevo Charter Academy
- Leona Jackson Middle School
- Alliance Olga Mohan High
- LA's Promise Schools
- ABC Unified School District

Moving Forward

CCEJ plans to continue our partnerships with existing schools and will reach out to new schools for the 2017-18 school year. We will continue to support sites in their implementation of Restorative Justice. Some areas of focus include: RJ Task Force development, parent involvement, student leadership, training, coaching, and assessment.



HERE'S A SHORT SUMMARY

- **300+ LBUSD employees** participated in one (or more) of CCEJ's trainings or workshops, including: Community Building, Harm and Conflict, Restorative Dialogue, and/or Games.
- **340+ Restorative Conversations** one-on-one were conducted to support youth facing challenges.
- **300+ Community Building Circles** were conducted in classrooms and with school staff members.
- **Eight Harm and Conflict Circles** were hosted to resolve conflicts.
- **Four Staff Development presentations** about equity.

Students Requesting Circle as a Response to Harm

Ms. Partida's class reported that their 2nd grade Reading Buddies were bullied by another middle school class. To address this harm that they felt needed to be addressed, they wanted to be in Circle with their Reading Buddies to discuss what happened. They received some assistance in planning Circles and led Circles with their 2nd grade Reading Buddies. This is just one example of students beginning to expand the work of Circle as intervention and examine the impact of harm.

UPCOMING TRAININGS - Register online at www.cacej.org/upcoming-events



Intro to Restorative Justice
August 2017



Games Training 2
August 2017



Healing Harms
August - October 2017



Conscious Classrooms
August - October 2017



Harm and Conflict
August 9-11, 2017

Why do you Build Bridges?

Longtime supporters Binnie and Jack Berro share why it is important for them to sponsor Building Bridges, *"We build bridges for paths of understanding, respect and peace among our youth today. It's a wonderful opportunity to make the world a better place. A Valuable Investment! With Heartfelt Hopes & Dreams."*

– Binnie & Jack Berro



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CCEJ would like to thank its donors for your generous support of our programs and our annual Building Bridges Legacy Campaign.

Your contribution to the Building Bridges Legacy Campaign will help give students, like Adonis Rubio, Henry Meyer Youth Award recipient, the opportunity to participate in CCEJ's crucial human relations programs including Building Bridges Camp and Summer Youth Leadership Institute.

We can still use your support! Help us send more youth to Building Bridges Camp by sharing the CCEJ mission with friends and family. Donate today at www.ccej.org/donate/.

CCEJ Celebrates 90 years of History

This year, CCEJ celebrates **90 years** since the establishment of the National Conference for Christians and Jews (NCCJ). Its founders were dedicated to bringing diverse people together to address interfaith divisions and later expanded our work to include all issues of social justice including race, class, gender equity, sexual orientation and the rights of people with different abilities. In 2005, the Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego NCCJ regions merged to form the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ). The local regions remained dedicated to the work and values upon which NCCJ was founded. CCEJ continues to envision and advocate for an environment of understanding and respect, building a world without discrimination. CCEJ celebrates our history as NCCJ and our continued partnership with affiliates of the National Federation for Just Communities (NFJC) throughout the country for our 90 years of working to advance equity, promote justice and build just communities.

Mission Statement

The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) is a human relations organization dedicated to confronting bias, bigotry and racism through education, conflict resolution and advocacy.

In Memory of Mort Stuhlberg



Mort Stuhlberg served as a CCEJ Board member for 26 years, was a Humanitarian Award recipient, appointed to the National Board of The National Conference for Community and Justice in New York and served as CCEJ Interim Executive Director in 2012. Mort ensured his support of CCEJ would continue with a generous annual gift through his trust. CCEJ is deeply appreciative of all you have generously given to the organization and Long Beach Community.



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