

Building Bridges

Comments from Participants and Partners

Youth -

“I like doing the Building Bridges program. I hope I will get another chance.”

“It was really fun to learn about different people. It made me feel good.”

“Building Bridges provided a real life-changing experience to sit down and listen to other older people’s stories.”

“The older people are more intelligent than most people think.”

“I think it is important that I know to respect my elders. Older people really appreciate the little things that we do for them.”

“I felt like I was really coming out of my shell to talk to someone I know nothing about.”

“I felt good after we left because I felt that we made them feel good by coming and interacting with them and listening to what they wanted to say.”

“I want to use my Building Bridges experience to explain to my friends who are scared of old people that they are not that bad.”

“The Building Bridges experience helped me talk with other elderly people and start helping elderly more.”

I want to help out older people more often. I will have a greater respect for my elders.”

“I think the Building Bridges program is great. It helps teach us that the others aren’t so bad.”

“I felt happy about the Building Bridges programs because I will know what to do when one of my older relatives will be in the nursing home.”

“I think Building Bridges was a good program because I felt it made them feel better and less lonely because us high schoolers were there visiting them and I know they hardly get any visitors.”

“I feel that it is a good way to get to know the elderly. Also the program makes it easier to be comfortable around the elderly.”

“I liked the whole program except I think we should have gone more.”

“I liked Building Bridges because I got to learn where and how they grew up. I disliked it because I couldn’t go that much.”

“Building Bridges strengthened me by learning how to respect the elderly and notice all the things they have been through.”

“Everything was great just make more time to spend with elderly people.”

“I have really enjoyed all of the stories we share and the different personalities of the seniors. I enjoy helping the nurses and getting to know the staff. I enjoy and feel great when I see the seniors laughing and smiling with me.”

“Building Bridges has offered a connection to a great volunteer opportunity. The program director and nursing staff at Seasons Care have been great.”

Schools/Youth Groups –

“I feel it has a positive impact on the children. They really enjoyed reading and learning about their pen pals.”

“My students understand that they can become ”friends” with people who are older. They learn about the differences in growing up in the past vs. modern times (history). They also improve letter writing skills.”

“The kids formed bonds with their pen pals and the relationships they developed through the school year.”

“Youth showed a growing respect, understanding & caring for seniors through Building Bridges.”

“I like the sharing part of it. Thoughtfulness is fostered even. Children learned to respect and think positively about older people.”

“Keep it going so younger kids will develop more caring, thoughtfulness and respect for older people.”

“Building Bridges teaches all of us consideration, respect for elders, kindness, sharing treats, thoughtfulness. The program helped children increase interest and respect for elders. A chance to relate on a personal level to trusting adults.”

“When we sang and met the seniors, the Building Bridges program was a lot more meaningful to our little kids. Sometimes children will make a picture and specifically request I “send it to the Building Bridges people.”

“The children looked forward to drawing because they felt that they were helping people. They felt that their pictures brought people comfort.”

“Children look at seniors as capable active people. The beginners line dancers nearly did us in!! Children built up friendships with particular seniors. Everyone benefited from a generous dose of unconditional love.”

“I feel Building Bridges is an excellent way for students to learn the skill of letter writing. It is also valuable in teaching students about the end of the life cycle, caring and responsibility.”

Seniors

“I liked looking forward to children’s letters. It was great to see how they expressed themselves.”

“A wonderful experience – good for children and good for me at 83.”

“I thought it was wonderful. It gave us a chance to occupy our brains.”

“It should be done more often. Building Bridges is a good program.”

“I think Building Bridges is a great program and I enjoyed “interacting” with the young people.”

“I love Building Bridges and hope that it continues next year. It was an enlightening experience.”

“Building Bridges was well planned and organized. I couldn’t suggest or recommend anything to make it better. The program is already performing at a perfection level.”

“We enjoyed corresponding with the children and think it is a great idea. We hope the program will be continued in the future.”

“I liked the excitement each child would show when they had their card answered.”

Nursing Centers/ Senior Housing and Centers -

“Seniors reported enjoying the time with the kids and getting to talk about old memories and experiences.”

“Residents expressed verbally how they enjoyed the visits from students.”

“Seniors that do not respond to any other program become animated and alive around the children.”

“Residents were more social, waiting each month to write back to the children.”

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