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Investors Bank Supports Unique Bullying Prevention Learning Lab *\$5,000 Grant for Kidsbridge Tolerance Center*

SHORT HILLS, New Jersey – Students like those in the fifth-grade at Paul Robeson Elementary School in Trenton will be able to attend the life skills training and bullying prevention programs offered by the Kidsbridge Tolerance Center thanks in part to a \$5,000 grant from the Roma Bank Community Foundation in partnership with Investors Bank.

Located in the Ewing Senior and Community Center, the Kidsbridge Tolerance Center provides an immersive and compelling educational opportunity to students in a unique learning lab format. According to Frank Lucchesi, the Chair of the Kidsbridge Board of Trustees, Kidsbridge provides about 2,500 elementary and middle school students and their teachers with empathy, bullying prevention and diversity appreciation awareness lessons each year.

Kidsbridge applied for the grant from the Roma Bank Community Foundation; Roma Bank became part of Investors Bank in December 2013. The Foundation supports non-profit organizations that enrich diverse communities served by Investors Bank.

“We are so grateful to the Roma Bank Community Foundation and Investors Bank for this grant,” said Lynne Azarchi, Kidsbridge Executive Director. “The grant enables us to bring in those students and schools who cannot afford to participate. It is so important that we are able to empower the next generation to make positive changes in their lives, as well as in the world we share together.”

“Kidsbridge offers students an opportunity to learn life skills, character education and an appreciation and tolerance for diversity,” said Cynthia Ricker, Investors Bank Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager for its Lawrenceville office. “Investors supports Kidsbridge and its programs to encourage the education of today’s students and tomorrow’s leaders.”

In addition to the Kidsbridge Tolerance Center, the nonprofit organization also offers the Kidsbridge Life Skills Programs, which provide targeted instruction to smaller groups of at-risk elementary and middle school students in Trenton. The program teaches youth to function independently and develop sound decision-making and problem-solving techniques through an educational mentoring program focusing on each student’s individual needs. This program’s goal is to mentor youth using targeted exercises designed to reinforce positive social experiences in a safe, non-judgmental, optimistic environment of mutual support.

(More)



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Photo Caption: Fifth-grade students from the Paul Robeson Elementary School in Trenton celebrate the presentation of a check for \$5,000 from Investors Bank and the Roma Bank Community Foundation to Kidsbridge Tolerance Center. Kidsbridge Executive Director Lynne Azarchi (left) and Board of Trustees Chair Frank Lucchesi accept the check from Cynthia Ricker, Investors Bank Vice President and Branch Manager – Lawrenceville (center).

About Investors Bank

Investors Bank is a full-service community bank that has been serving customers since 1926. With more than \$20 billion in assets and over 135 retail branches in New Jersey, New York City and Long Island, Investors Bank delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors' consumer banking services include complete deposit products, online banking, home equity loans and lines of credit and a full array of mortgage loans. Serving the business community, Investors provides deposit accounts, cash management services, business loans and lines of credit, and commercial real estate financing solutions to small and middle market companies, professional services firms, municipalities and other businesses. Investors Bank. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

About Kidsbridge

Kidsbridge is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing imaginative, hands-on programs focusing on bullying prevention, empathy and respect for all. Since 1996, Kidsbridge has sought to fill the large voids that exist in the learning of life skills, character education and diversity appreciation with knowledge, aspiration and empowerment. Kidsbridge programs include the Kidsbridge Tolerance Center in Ewing, NJ, and the Kidsbridge Life Skills Programs. More than 2,200 students and 200 educators visit the Museum each year.