



Making Allies, Making Friends

A Curriculum for *Making the Peace*
in Middle School Communities

By **Hugh Vasquez, Nell Myhand, &
Allan Creighton** with **TODOS Institute**

DESIGNED FOR MIDDLE-SCHOOL STUDENTS, grades 6 through 9, *Making Allies, Making Friends* can be integrated with the *Making the Peace* program, but also stands on its own.

More than thirty innovative classroom sessions are designed to prepare young people to build a healthy multicultural community and prevent violence. They address the issues of race, class, gender and sexual identity, everyday issues faced by middle-school students, and can be adapted to many different school environments.

The flexible curriculum design consists of a set of foundation sessions and four tracks of elective follow-up sessions. The sessions are suitable for any age or grade level in middle school and enable students to explore their own experiences through understanding their involvement in larger communities and to eventually take action toward building alliances in their own groups. Included in each session are

- warm-up exercises
- theme information
- value clarification
- an experience or activity

Elements of art and culture form a significant part of the activities, which include journal writing, role-plays, murals,



storytelling, dramatic monologues and more. Closing sessions focus on the next steps the students will take as allies for each other and for the students who will come after them at the school. This carefully crafted work will be a valuable resource for middle-school districts; schools and personnel; and teachers of violence prevention, youth development, conflict resolution, social studies, art, culture and theater.

**224 pages 8.5"x 11" 15 B&W Photos
59 Illustrations 46 reproducible handouts
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Hugh Vasquez is cofounder and director of the TODOS Institute in Oakland, CA, and cofounder of the multicultural youth program, New Bridges.

M. Nell Myhand coauthored the multi-session curriculum *Young Women's Lives*, and is program director at TODOS.

Allan Creighton is the director of the Teen Program for Battered Women's Alternatives (BWA) in Concord, California, and is a co-founder of Men Overcoming Violence (MOVE), a group that counsels batterers. He produced *My Girl*, a video for teens speaking about issues of violence. He lectures frequently and trains domestic violence prevention workers statewide. Together, **Allan Creighton** and **Paul Kivel** founded the Oakland Men's Project in 1979. Through their programs, men, women, and young people work together to build multicultural, community alliances which make it possible for all of us to find alternatives to violence. Creighton and Kivel developed the unique program presented in *Helping Teens Stop Violence* and it is used nationwide (and you can buy that book, among many others, at www.paulkivel.com).

