

# Beyond Differences<sup>TM</sup>

Inspiring youth to end social isolation

Beyond Differences is a student-led social justice movement and the only organization dedicated to ending social isolation by empowering students to become activists and change the culture of middle school.



## OUR VISION

We envision a world where every child is accepted, valued, and included by their peers no matter what their differences.



We strive to do that every day by inspiring students at all middle schools nationwide to end social isolation and create a culture of belonging for everyone.

## WHAT IS SOCIAL ISOLATION?

### A Public Health Crisis

Social isolation is a preventable public health crisis affecting millions of children every day who suffer in silence because they are seen as different by others, or just feel different for one reason or another.

Social isolation can have a devastating impact on a child's mental and physical health including depression,

anxiety, high blood pressure and obesity.

Our world has become increasingly intolerant, divided, and dangerous. We believe the youth of this generation have the power and natural motivation to turn that around and make a difference, starting with how they treat each other at school and online.



**OUR  
APPROACH  
WORKS!**

Our **POSITIVE PREVENTION INITIATIVES** have reached more than half a million students across the country.

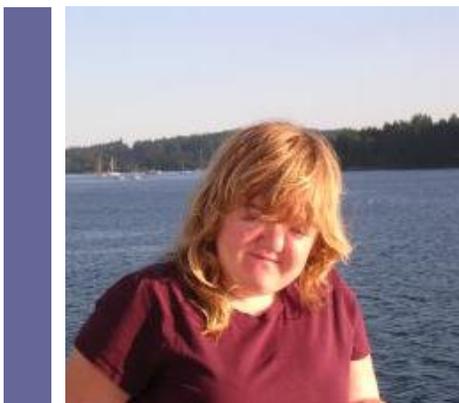


**Know Your Classmates**



Students at thousands of middle and high schools nationwide have experienced our National Awareness Day events, Student Leadership Training, and Original Curriculum.

Designed and tested over a period of seven years, our year-round initiatives are free, easy to use, and will succeed in any type of school environment. While every school has students who feel socially isolated, each school has different needs so administrators and teachers can choose from flexible options that best fit their local school culture.



### **Our Inspiration**

Beyond Differences was inspired by the life and memory of Lili Rachel Smith (1994 – 2009) who was born with a disfiguring cranial facial syndrome and passed away in her sleep as a freshman in high school. Former

classmates created the first Teen Board of Beyond Differences to honor Lili's memory and make sure others didn't have to endure the same isolation that Lili felt in middle school.

Be part of the student-led social justice movement that is changing the culture of middle schools for this and future generations to come!

Join the movement to end social isolation today! <http://www.beyonddifferences.org>