The Bridge Kids International Story

In honor of the young people in Soweto, South Africa who died in 1976 fighting for their educational rights, the Organisation for African Unity instituted June 16th (also South African Youth Day) as The Day of the African Child. Each June from 1999 – 2005, young people from 3 continents participated in the International Videoconference for the Day of the African Child. Bridge Kids International was born out of that videoconference experience.

Stacy Bailey-Ndiaye, Keith Gauff and Dr. Susan Stukes joined forces to lead the United States Planning Committee for the Day of the African Child. Along with a team of dynamic individuals and organizations including The Links, Inc., the South African Consulate, Plan International, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the New York City 2012 Olympic Bid Committee, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, NYC Dept. of Multicultural Affairs, Sister to Sister International, Southern University, North Carolina A&T State University, Manhattanville College, Entergy and many others, they organized the International Videoconference for the Day of the African Child. As the excitement grew, the number of participating countries increased, and the videoconference inspired the youth participants to design community based projects, the organizers knew it was time to take the work of the videoconference to the next level.

Bridge Kids was truly launched with the first Bridge Kids International Camp in July 2005 in St. Louis, Senegal. We had an amazing time with young people from Kenya, Senegal, Switzerland, Togo, and the United States. During the second Bridge Kids Camp in 2010, with representatives from the Bridge Kids Groups in Ghana, Jamaica, Rwanda, Senegal, and the United States, we knew we were on to something special.

Bridge Kids links young people, aged 13-25, through our website, web conferences, social media, and camps in participating countries. Bridge Kids members, who develop projects in their home communities, are generally connected to youth in other countries with similar interests in an effort to build support networks and give them a sense of the global nature of their issues. We are committed to ensuring that youth take on leadership and decision-making roles in the organization.

Bridge Kids also helps individuals and organizations interested in contributing to the development of young people of Africa and the African Diaspora. We identify viable programs and projects that need support. We believe in working people-to-people and can help link individuals and organizations who have resources to share with those who are doing good work and would benefit from those resources. We are especially excited about making those connections between people of the African Diaspora and people in Africa.

www.bridge-kids.org • 502.457.1910 • 501 W. Kenwood Drive, Louisville, KY 40214, USA • Cité Universitaire Boudiouk, Villa 33, Saint-Louis, Sénégal