

WHAT MAKES COUNCIL FOR UNITY UNIQUE

Council for Unity works to replace a culture of despair with a culture of hope in our children's lives. Our mission is to empower young people, individuals and groups with the skills necessary to promote safety, unity and achievement in schools and communities.

ROBERT J. DESENA
Founder and President
Council for Unity, Inc.

For over 30 years, the Council for Unity has exclusively focused on violence, racial tensions and isolation affecting our youth. While the faces of these issues plaguing our communities have changed, our tenaciousness has not. Our founder is today our president and inspiration.

Our proprietary models and curricula teach values and responsibility – teachings today lost in the development of our youth. Our classroom is the community and our approach puts the kids in charge. We are a membership organization where membership is earned and membership is for life. Council for Unity offers kids an invitation to humanity.

We are on the cutting edge in educational reform in the United States, where real learning experiences are exclusive of testing – while having massive academic consequences. The effectiveness and versatility of our approach and our programs are proven. Our results are both quantitative and qualitative. Our impact is both individual and community-wide. We impose high expectations on our kids and we don't give up.

“In school you do schoolwork. On the basketball court you shoot hoops. But at Council you build yourself inward and I think as a person not only in school but outside school in the real world you need to interact with other people and I think that's what Council does.”

Young Woman, Council Member

When asked “What makes Council unique?” he acknowledges “It is the greatest gang-prevention program in the country – it works – it gives these at-risk kids empowerment – it provides a light at the end of a tunnel – it puts an arm on these kids' shoulders.”

The Honorable Arthur I. Burns, former Council Board Member

“In many ways, being CFU advisor at Clara Barton has been my greatest experience as an educator. I was looking for something more from teaching after 6 years of teaching social studies. With CFU, I really feel a part of something much more relevant. Council has provided me with a very diverse and unique group of friends and contacts with whom I almost feel familial bonds. And I have become 'family' to those students in my chapter. Never before had I been around students who were so motivated to make a difference in the lives of others, and who are so open and caring. While as a first time advisor, there were moments when I felt unsure of myself in facilitating this program at Barton, and while this feeling at times persists, I have tremendous support from the Council and their guidance has been invaluable. The students have been an absolute pleasure. They have represented CFU and Barton with class and dignity and they have embraced the program in a powerful way that I was not fully expecting. I have never felt closer to my students, nor have I ever felt that I was doing more worthwhile work as an educator.”

Marc Donato, Advisor, Clara Barton High School

