



THE BEN MARION INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our KEF™ Programs in Social Justice Education



Kindness

Empathy

Fairness

Educating for a More Compassionate World!



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Partnering to create a socially just world....Join us!

The Ben Marion Institute For Social Justice, Inc. seeks to promote behaviors that encourage an inclusive society where individuals and groups embrace differences and value kindness, authenticity, empathy, compassion and fairness.

The Institute is a 501(c)(3) educational tax-exempt, nonprofit organization fulfilling all Federal and State guidelines. Our programs and curriculums are accredited by the State of Georgia Department of Education and endorsed by the Georgia State Parent Teachers Association.

The Ben Marion Institute looks to a promising, just future by offering specialized training to Individuals and groups.

We help you create a socially just community by:

- ▶ Identifying, understanding and working with the uniqueness of every individual;
- ▶ Demonstrating and facilitating the how's and why's of respecting and appreciating differences, not judging them;
- ▶ Addressing and neutralizing biases and incidences of injustice.



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A word from the Executive Director . . .

It's a fact: every 17 seconds a child is being bullied!

Sadly, there is so much bullying going on in the world today. We see it on the national and local news, between countries, or between country leaders and their people. We see it where we live — at work, traveling to work, in school, traveling to school, walking on the streets of our neighborhoods. We see it in the shops and offices we visit as we navigate through our day. We see it at home, between parents, between parents and children, and, of course, between our kids themselves. That, in fact, is where bullying begins — when we're kids. We get bullied, perhaps become bullies ourselves, and never learn how to stop the bully — the bully inside ourselves or the bully that challenges us in our daily existence.

The Ben Marion Institute works thoughtfully and insightfully to offer customized workshops, training, and professional development support to educators, families and communities that will effectively guide them through the delicate process of creating a socially just climate of kindness, empathy, and fairness.

The Institute brings together experts and expert information from education, child development, mental health and research science to help you consider the range of ways that you can promote an ethically safe and healthy climate that will support all children's right to be authentically who they are; one where they develop positive social and emotional learning through a social justice lens.

I offer a warm and open invitation to you to join others like yourself who value and care about today's youth and their safety and begin the journey forward with us to a more empathetic, inclusive society.

Abby Drue
Executive Director

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THE BEN MARION INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Welcome to KEF™...

The Ben Marion Institute's Jewel For Creating A Social Justice Culture!

We affectionately call the Institute's social justice training programs "KEF™", an acronym which stands for Kindness, Empathy, and Fairness! These programs are dynamic, engaging and interactive and are a culmination of years of hands on experience in the delivery of social justice education.

The Ben Marion Institute strives to offer action plans for social justice change that are sustainable and easily implemented from generation to generation. While knowing about our differences is important, the "doing" piece of social justice is quite different and remains The Ben Marion Institute's primary focus.

How we do it...

At the Ben Marion Institute, we develop, conduct, and evaluate our KEF™ training programs based upon a group's specific needs and desired outcomes. These programs are customized and unique to the organization, agency, and/or institution that seek our support and solutions. We believe in taking folks from where they are and building on their individual life experiences as we move forward in evolving a truly socially just climate. Our program offers individuals the opportunity to explore their opinions and possible hidden biases in a non-critical, non-judgmental, safe way.

In addition, we provide information, resources and consultation/referral services, connecting people to people, and organizations to organizations, helping all to achieve their goals in social justice education. Community building through a social justice lens is a committed and intricate part of The Ben Marion Institute's reason for being.



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Creating Peaceable, Safe Schools.....our vision.

A peaceable school climate reflects caring, honesty, cooperation, empathy, and an appreciation of differences.

The Ben Marion Institute strives to re-ignite the interest and ability of youth and adults to actively engage in respectful dialogue and negotiation in fostering satisfying and successful outcomes to disagreements and hurt.

Our viable KEF™ (Kindness, Empathy, and Fairness) programs uniquely include curriculum that integrates conflict mediation. It is the Institute's belief that conflict mediation is an important foundation skill that effectively supports systemic social change within a whole school community.

Through our KEF™ education programs, we cultivate critical thinking and seek to foster ethical, social and intellectual development in the communities, institutions and families that participate with The Ben Marion Institute.

Our Partners in Social Justice Education....

The Ben Marion Institute For Social Justice conducts these KEF™ workshops and curriculum training sessions with numerous organizations in the public and private sectors, including:

- ▶ Schools, colleges and universities;
- ▶ Nonprofit organizations;
- ▶ For-profit organizations;
- ▶ Civic and community services associations;
- ▶ Social and human services agencies;
- ▶ Religious institutions;
- ▶ Government agencies and offices;
- ▶ Hospitals and healthcare facilities.



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Pieces of the puzzle . . . Creating KEF™ Workshops

Examine

We examine current organizational needs related to age, gender, sexual orientation, economic class, physical abilities and characteristics, race and ethnicity.

Design

We design and create the workshops based on the information from the needs assessment.

Implement

We implement activities and strategies for desired outcomes.

Analyze

We analyze and review data on workshops from evaluations.



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Seven Guiding Assumptions of the KEF™ Program

Assumption 1

Everyone notices differences and begin to discriminate based on those differences.

Assumption 2

Noticing differences is not the problem. The problem is that in our society, some differences are valued as positive and others as negative, and somewhere down the line we have absorbed those values.

Assumption 3

We do not all experience bias in the same way.

Assumption 4

A social justice approach where kindness, empathy and fairness are valued is important for everyone.

Assumption 5

As adults, we are often unaware of our biases. Therefore, we unintentionally perpetuate the biases in environments we create.

Assumption 6

Understanding bias and inequality is a long term process that can be challenging as well as fun.

Assumption 7

It's important to create environments where everyone's participation is valued and where it's okay to have differing points of view.