WE'RE ENDOWING THE FUTURE

TOUCHSTONES[®]

DISCUSSION PROJECT



When Geoff Comber, Nick Maistrellis and Howard Zeiderman started the "Touchstones Project" over 38 years ago, they had no idea it would reach over five million students of all ages in 47 countries and six languages. Their vision was simple: to transform education from passive to active learning and to ensure all students acquired essential skills needed for success in school, life, and work.

To achieve this goal they developed a new approach in education. Touchstones trains teachers to foster communication, social-emotional, and thinking skills in all students--one class period a week. Our programs empower and enhance classroom engagement by bridging student knowledge and experience into open-ended discussions where there are no right or wrong answers. Regardless of age or background, all Touchstones students explore how everyone's thinking and voice matters in a world with increasingly complex challenges. Students gain real-world practice contributing and evaluating ideas while assuming greater responsibility for their own learning. At the same time, they explore leadership behaviors that foster inclusive and collaborative discussions. Because all people need these skills, Touchstones programs are invaluable for adult learning, too--whether in higher education, with incarcerated people, in veterans' and seniors' groups, or corporations and organizations.





To meet the growing demand for skills in civil discourse and collaboration and growing our reach, we must increase organizational and deliver more programs and professional services. To achieve this goal, we launched a vital initiative: to raise \$5 million for the The Founders' Fund, an endowment that ensures Touchstones thrives and grows in perpetuity. Modest annual dividends from the Fund will enable steady growth as outlined in our new four-year strategic plan. We have already secured \$1.8 million from supporters. With your help, we will reach our goal.

It has never been more important to develop the skills of active listening and reflective thinking. In supporting Touchstones, you nurture the shared belief that a free and inclusive society needs and recognizes all viewpoints. We welcome your partnership in this crucial endeavor.



discussion-based programming, Touchstones develops highly effective speakers, listeners, critical thinkers, and collaborative leaders. This is how:

Annual charitable gifts and grants insure Touchstones programs and curriculum are available to all who want them, regardless of economic status.

Income earned from sales of program curriculum and professional services covers annual operating expenses and funds new business development.