



## Welcome to Roots of Empathy

### A message from Founder President Mary Gordon

Dear Roots of Empathy Volunteer,

Thank you for putting up your hand and volunteering to train and instruct the Roots of Empathy program. Your future work around the green blanket is at the very heart of our organization. Your interactions with children using our philosophy and curriculum will have a profound and lasting impact, allowing them to find the humanity in a vulnerable baby, in themselves and in one another. Research on our program over the last two decades and on three continents has shown that the impact of the program is lasting and that children become more caring, help more and hurt less.

Your future role as an Instructor will allow you to witness a snapshot of our future as the children you will spend your year with are not just a part of our future but 100 percent of it. Your relationship with them is more a role of coaching than teaching. In fact, we 'reach' children rather than 'teach' children. Our approach of reaching through experiential questions is unique and our value of intrinsic motivation allows for the inclusion of all voices around the green blanket. You will be teaching children a new language. They will learn the vocabulary of their emotions from you and will become more emotionally literate in a world which is mainly emotionally illiterate.

We deeply appreciate the gift of your time, your unique humanity and your willingness to become part of the Roots of Empathy family. As a welcome gift, please accept a copy of my book "Roots of Empathy, Changing the World Child by Child". It will answer the who, what, where, when and why of the program and provide insights into the philosophical underpinnings of Roots of Empathy. More importantly, it begs the question 'what if?' Our mission of building a more caring peaceful and civil society by raising levels of empathy in children is the 'What if'. You will be our partner in changing the world, child by child.

With deep appreciation and warm wishes,

**Mary Gordon**  
**Founder President, Roots of Empathy**