



2019-2020 Human Relations Ambassadors Program Report

What is the Human Relations Ambassadors Program (HRAP)?

The Human Relations Ambassadors Program is a year-long internship designed to provide advanced human relations training to a diverse group of Orange County youth. Students meet twice a month to discuss human relations issues, learn new activities and develop workshop and community presentations.

This year we had **25** applicants, **19** students from across Orange County joined, and **17** students graduated from the Human Relations Ambassadors Program.

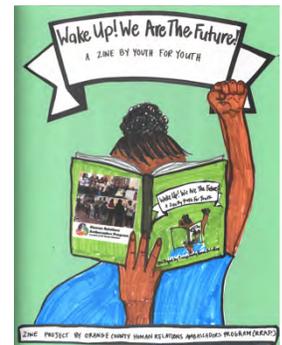


Bi-Weekly HRAP Meetings

Together, HRAP members committed to meeting twice a month, from September 2019 to May 2020 to learn from each other and to learn about the human relations issues happening in Orange County. Students learned through research, articles, current events and facilitated presentations and discussion on topics such as gender justice, housing segregation, and OC Civil Rights.

Final Zine Project - Creative Research and Critical Thinking

This year, HRAP students worked together to complete a community-wide project zine project called [Wake Up! We Are The Future!](#) to explore social issues that matter to them and spread awareness of these issues to other youth in Orange County. The assignment helped students to develop their own voice and help to empower other students to do the same. Students researched and wrote about issues of housing segregation, mental health, immigrant rights, school bullying, and religious discrimination.



Transitioning to Online

At the beginning of the month of March, many schools in Orange County implemented distance learning due to COVID-19 school closures. HRAP also had to pivot to continue meeting online and meet the needs of our students. We sent out a needs assessment survey and had 10 responses. Students responded that they felt overwhelmed, stressed, sad, and disappointed. All respondents indicated they had access to healthy and consistent food and shelter. They envisioned wrapping up the HRAP program on a strong note by continuing virtual meetings and icebreakers. We wrapped up the school year online in March with a virtual game night, alumni panel, and affirmation activity meeting. We also had a graduation ceremony online paired with an in-person graduation caravan to safely drop off certificates to the graduates. Students appreciated that we continued to meet online. With the uncertain future of COVID-19 school closures, it is clear that students expressed that they still appreciate and want to a space to build community.



OC Human Relations

Student Reflections

Here are some of the highlights from our graduate evaluations:

GLOW: What did you enjoy most about HRAP? What are you taking from this experience?

- I enjoyed hearing stories from all kinds of different backgrounds, ages, and people. With this experience, I'm going to continue to strive for justice in my community and wherever I go. I also want to inspire change and establish more community between others.
- I enjoyed connecting with other people who were from a different city, I got to see how they faced different experiences. It made me reflect on my own experiences. HRAP could possibly have been the highlight of my year, I feel like I've learned so much from each meeting, the knowledge I've gained from HRAP is definitely something that will stay with me for years to come.
- I enjoy the most at the Walk In My Shoes conference because that when I feel like we are all working as a group to help facilitating and also that is where we can listen to different speakers to speak about social issues. I think it's very valuable to attend events like WIMS because you can get exposed to many different new topics and to meet with people who share similar passion. It will keep me reminded of why I should continue to advocate and keep me inspired/motivated.
- I really enjoyed everything about HRAP, but I especially enjoyed the check ins and fun icebreakers that we did at the beginning to get to know each other better! I also enjoyed meeting so many new people and making friends. From HRAP, I have gained so much knowledge and awareness on issues impacting the country and even our community. I hope to continue to learn more about these issues and start doing more to promote the mission of OC Human relations in my community.

GROW: What could be improved upon or changed? What do you recommend for future HRAP programming?

- I hope HRAP can organize more community service field-work where we can apply our knowledge and also enjoy spending time doing something meaningful as a group.
- I feel like HRAP is very well designed and implemented. Perhaps we could draft a community event in the next year.
- I would improve /change a retreat or a day where we can all come together and hangout. A fun day would be great to create friendships and get to know everyone. The small ice breakers are great and all but I think we can all benefit a day where it's just filled with fun and games while also learning about social injustices throughout the day.

