

1857 High Ridge Ave.  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Brett Avila, MPH  
Camp Kindle, Inc.  
201 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Brett,

Please let Andy, Erin, and the kids know how much their visit meant to the staff, volunteers and students at Carlsbad High School. We have had World AIDS Day presentations on three or four previous occasions, but this year's assemblies were far and away the best attended and most well received. We had two assemblies with close to 400 students from grades nine through twelve attending each one. Teacher sign ups were taken in advance with first preference given to health classes, but we had a nice mix. The first assembly also had ASL interpreters so that our deaf students could benefit.

Andy and the girls were great. The girls were a little nervous getting up in front of such a huge auditorium, but they came through with flying colors. We were especially impressed by the way his factual presentation was interspersed with the kids' personal stories. Honestly, except when Andy made them laugh, you could have heard a pin drop. We are hoping that you will get some future counselors from the students who were present.

Along with Speak Out we had 96 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt up on the stage. After the presentation, students had the opportunity to walk up onstage where they could talk to the kids and view the panels. Like all quilt displays, visitors were encouraged to share their feelings on a signature panel. As it turned out, students chose to write messages of hope and affirmation to the Camp Kindle kids who had spoken. I think it speaks volumes about how closely they were listening. In one brief presentation hearts and minds were forever changed. We plan on binding the signature panel into a quilt panel that we will send to Camp Kindle in time for next summer's session.

Please feel free to share this letter with anyone who is considering having Speak Out come to their community. Additionally I would be happy to let them know how we organized our event to involve community, staff and students in the planning process. We couldn't be more pleased with how well everything went, and we look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely,



Caroline Theiss-Aird