



Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie

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Children's Empathy Program Inducted into Education Innovation 'Hall of Fame'

International charity Roots of Empathy selected by global education organization HunderED from thousands of education innovations

Toronto – On October 26th, the global organization HunderED that discovers, researches and shares inspiring innovations for kindergarten to grade 12 education, inducted Roots of Empathy into their Hall of Fame.

Roots of Empathy, an international children's charity whose classroom program improves children's mental health and wellbeing, began in Toronto in 1996, and has since spread to 12 countries (Canada, the United States, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Costa Rica). Research has shown that the Roots of Empathy program significantly reduces bullying and aggression with lasting effects, and increases empathy and pro-social behaviours like kindness, inclusion and sharing. The program's novel approach to fostering empathy brings in a parent and their baby into a classroom nine times over the school year. A Roots of Empathy instructor guides the children to read the baby's emotional cues and take the baby's perspective. Children develop an understanding and vocabulary for the baby's feelings that through the program, becomes a bridge to understand, identify, and talk about their own feelings - even the deepest and most troubling.

“Being selected for the HunderED Hall of Fame is truly a great honour and recognition for Roots of Empathy. We provide support to students and to their teachers as we raise the bar on what it means to be human – to be empathic,” said Mary Gordon, Founder/President of Roots of Empathy. “Empathy is a pathway to better relationships in childhood that feeds resiliency, happiness and progress towards a more just and kinder world.”

To be in HunderED's Hall of Fame is to be amongst an even smaller group from an already elite annual selection of thousands of education innovations from around the world. Only four organizations were selected for the Hall of Fame this year, and Roots of Empathy is the only Hall of Fame selection from North America and is proud to be in the company of the other inductees from India, Belgium, and Mali.

“Roots of Empathy has been part of our selected 100 Global Collections for the last 5 years and we

are delighted to induct Roots of Empathy into our Hall of Fame,” Lasse Leponiemi , HundrED Hall of Fame Executive Director/Co-Founder. “Education innovations are key to education system transformation, and we feel it is important for more educators in the world to know about the best ones to learn from for their local areas.”

To view the just released 2023 HundrED Global Collection featuring Roots of Empathy in the Hall of Fame, please visit <https://hundred.org/en/collections/hundred-2023>, and visit Roots of Empathy’s HundrED page at : <https://hundred.org/en/innovations/roots-of-empathy>

About Roots of Empathy: Roots of Empathy (ROE) is an award-winning charitable organization that offers empathy-based programming for children. ROE’s mission is to build caring, peaceful, and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults. ROE, its flagship program for elementary school children, has reached 1 million children on four continents and is proven by 2 decades of independent research to reduce aggression/bullying and increase prosocial behaviour. Seeds of Empathy is offered to children in early learning and childcare sites.

Website: <https://rootsofempathy.org/>

About HundrED: HundrED, a Finland-based mission-driven and global organization, discovers, researches and shares inspiring innovations in K12 education. HundrED is dedicated to helping every child flourish by giving them access to quality education. We believe that with education innovations we can transform school systems and equip students with the skills to thrive as global citizens.

Website: <https://hundred.org/en>

