From the sandbox, through the dormitory, to the boardroom, conflict is inevitable. And the way in which individuals address this conflict will critically impact their relationships with others, and more importantly, society as a whole. Unfortunately, today far too many people lack the tools to successfully resolve conflict in a mature and peaceful manner.

These habits are set early.

Children who learn to respect and talk to others constructively, even when they strongly disagree, become responsible citizens and know how to live and work with others in their communities and workplaces. Words Work is a unique program that is designed to help students develop communication, relationship, leadership and problem-solving skills for use in their daily lives. Through Words Work, we empower children to create common ground from which they can establish constructive relationships and effectively resolve conflicts — now and in the future.

The Problem
According to a recent national Bureau of Justice Statistics report, in 2010 students ages 12-18 experienced 359,000 violent “victimizations.” Without an alternative set of skills to apply in conflict situations, minor disputes easily escalate into serious incidents.

Not only are these experiences extremely painful for children, their effects compound throughout their lives into adulthood, and can be passed on to their own children. The most effective way to stop this negative cycle of communication challenges is at its root.

How We Solve It
Just as academic fundamentals are essential skills for leading a productive life, so too are the fundamental skills of effective communication. Words Work is an adaptable ten-session curriculum designed to help students develop skills that are applicable to situations they encounter in their daily lives. By teaching young people how to work with others whose experiences, behaviors, and opinions are different from their own, Words Work equips students with life skills that go beyond the schoolyard to build strong communities, families, and workplaces.

By integrating Words Work at school we simultaneously impact students and the entire campus learning environment.

How to Help
We envision a future where all people have the ability and responsibility to engage in peaceable problem-solving. It begins with our children and youth and results in healthier schools and communities.

We invite you to adopt a school and make a down payment on the future.

For information on a provider near you contact the National Association for Community Mediation
www.nafcm.org (602) 633-4213