

CAMPAIGN FOR THE CIVIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS  *Educating for Democracy*®

October 2, 2020

Mrs. Alysa Cooper
Citizenship Counts,
504 Centennial Blvd #805,
Voorhees, NJ 08043

Dear Alysa:

Here are some thoughts about your Founder and the marvelous program she and you have created. Acclaimed author, motivational speaker, humanitarian, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, an Emmy and Academy Award, renowned civic educator, Holocaust Survivor. These are all titles and well deserved accolades belonging to the remarkable Gerda Weissmann Klein, a lively nonagenarian still giving back to her adopted homeland.

Gerda Weissmann Klein is an international treasure of compassion, tolerance and understanding. Gerda and her late husband Kurt Klein are a testament to the power of new citizens making a impact on American society. Gerda Klein's many, many acts of large and quiet charity combined with the power of her dignity in the face of unspeakable horror, make her an incredible role model for anyone seeking to live a life of giving back and good works.

Gerda Klein's most recent charitable venture, founded when she was well into her eighties, is Citizenship Counts, which magnificently fills a gap in K-12 civic education. Before Citizenship Counts, social studies teachers had very little instructional material on the immigration and naturalization process. Citizenship Counts superbly fills that gap, with an outstanding concluding lesson of students actually hosting a naturalization ceremony.

What better way to help students understand that we are a nation of immigrants, that our strength is built on the contributions of waves of immigrants, bringing their talent and hard work to our country. Lessons that are vital in these volatile times. The national civic learning community is deeply grateful to Gerda Weissmann Klein for providing this powerful classroom resource. Gerda's books are moving, factual, eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust. Her body of work is a vital part of the record of that tragic time and are used in classrooms across the country. Gerda's visits to classrooms are vital to ensuring this unimaginable page of human history is not forgotten and never repeated.

The United States is indebted to Gerda Weissman Klein for all that she has given back to her adopted nation.

Sincerely,



Ted McConnell
Executive Director