



Hi everyone, my name is Hillary Stone and I have been an Ophelia mentor for 4 years. I started my journey with Indio Middle School where I mentored for 3 years, serving 2 of those years as a Co-Captain. I wanted to continue as a co-captain and was told that Desert Ridge Academy had an opening, so I accepted. These past 4 years have been an enlightening, motivational, and creative journey. Seeing these girls come in not really understanding what the project provides, but watching as they make close friendships quickly, sharing themselves innocently, and by year end walking out young women.

I am a native Southern California girl from Long Beach. I was raised in a military environment. My Dad was in the Navy for 25 years. I have three brothers of whom I want to thank for all their teasing and practical jokes that has made me a strong and resilient woman. While in High School, I was fortunate to march in the Date Festival and even spent the night in Indio High School's gymnasium. I have done community service with the Junior Women's Club that brought me back to Palm Springs as a hostess for their Spring Convention. After my High School graduation, my desire was to become a 3rd grade teacher. Unfortunately, my college time was cut short and I found myself in the working field. I ended up in the Banking Industry and worked my way up from a bank teller, to operations supervisor, selected to officer training, and after 25 years I left as a quality control officer and assistant vice president. I was not through yet. I went back to college for a year at age 49 and graduated with a Physical Education degree and a Senior Fitness Specialist certification. For 17 years, I was a fitness instructor for seniors with the Arthritis Foundation. In the meantime, my husband and I moved to a wonderful Country Club in Palm Desert and I initiated the Emergency Preparedness Program of which I headed for over 10 years. My husband and I have been together for 48 years and I have a daughter and two step children who have given us 7 wonderful grandchildren. I define myself as a person with a purpose and use my head and heart to enjoy what I love most, people. In my spare time I enjoy group meditation, yoga, my personal exercise regime, some golf, and various social activities. I do collect quotes and thoughtful sayings, one of which I would like to close with: "I focus on positive thoughts, because the thoughts I think and the words I speak create my experiences."