

1 - Before the dialogue group: what did I expect? What had been my fears?

I expected to meet other Jewish people like me, descendents of Holocaust victims and survivors, and members of the second and third generation of Germans who are connected to that period in history through their fathers and grandfathers. I was interested in learning more about how my German counterparts are dealing with their feelings, and what their struggles and challenges are.

2 - During the dialogue group: what happened during the week? What impressed me most? What was important to me - and why?

I was amazed at how quickly the members of the group bonded with each other. In a very short time the stories we shared brought us together. We discovered that we had more in common than we could have imagined. By the end of the week I felt as if I were one member of a new family. It was difficult to believe that we had only been together for four and a half days!

3 - Afterwards: What do I think now about what the One by One group is about? What is the essence, the core of it? And how would I describe the effect on me?

The One by One group is about sharing our stories and our pain, widening our perspectives, and forming new friendships. Talking, crying, laughing, eating, and sharing a house together is a wonderful way to break down barriers quickly. Now, two weeks after the close of the group, I have renewed hope that the wounds of the past can be healed, and healthy relationships between the descendents of former perpetrators and victims can be established.

Howard, July 2012 Dialogue Group Participant