



### **NEED IN DEED'S MISSION**

Founded in 1987, NID uses the classroom to prepare young people for civic responsibility and service to others, helping them develop into capable, contributing members of society. With a mission to improve education in Philadelphia's traditional public and charter schools, NID helps 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students increase academic and 21st-century skills.

Students engage in a yearlong process of active problem-solving around a community issue of each classroom's choice. Known as service-learning, the process is designed to

- deepen students' connection to school,
- improve their academic skills, and
- build habits of inquiry, critical thinking, and civic participation.

### **HOW WE WORK**

NID staff supports each classroom from initial inquiry through project implementation. We serve our mission through a unique set of partnerships:

- classroom teachers in the School District of Philadelphia's voluntarily elect to integrate NID's approach into their classroom practice; and
- representatives of the city's vast network of public agencies and private organizations voluntarily serve as classroom resources during the students' inquiry and design process.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, 150 Need in Deed teachers are bringing this remarkable experience to 3,900 students in 63 public schools across the city with the help of up to 70 community partners.

An assessment of our work by Research for Action in 2010 revealed a number of positive impacts and identified a pattern across a range of areas that suggested NID's service-learning strategy has "a broad and holistic positive impact on classroom climate, civic attitudes, and academic achievement."

### **OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- In 2015, NID was chosen to participate in the Building Agency Capacity for Program Evaluation Initiative. Supported by the Barra Foundation, the Philadelphia Foundation and the Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation, the selected organizations received two years of intensive evaluation services from Yale University's Consultation Center and ongoing support thereafter.
- In addition to our community partners, in recent years, we have launched partnerships with a number of area nonprofits, including ArtWell, the Conservation Center of the Philadelphia Zoo, the Pennsylvania SPCA, and the Free Library of Philadelphia. With each organization, NID staff and teachers either help maximize outreach efforts to engage students with their programs or provide insights to strengthen and improve the organization's education programs.
- Since 2012 we've partnered with West Chester University in conjunction with its Y.E.S. program, which focuses on civic engagement and offers students an opportunity to learn about service-learning and experience its implementation in urban settings. In 2014 a second collaboration began with a WCU Middle Grades Literacy Practicum course in which education undergrads work with NID teachers, gaining insight into our framework and integrating it into literacy lessons they create. Both collaborations continue to flourish.
- NID staff and teachers present at professional conferences of the National Association of Multicultural Education; the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages; the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers; the Teacher Action Group; University of Pennsylvania's Urban Ethnography Conference; and Arcadia University's Connected Learning Camp, among others.