An Investment That Will Last a Lifetime for All Our Children . . .

We are a not-for-profit organization serving greater Newark families for over 46 years. We provide children ages 6 weeks to 14 years the highest quality early childhood, school-age, and summer camp care. We educate, enrich, and inspire children and youth from culturally and economically diverse families.
Our Background and Philosophy

Founded in 1981, we are now celebrating our 40th year of providing child care and education for the children of Newark. We are committed to being a family community of children, parents, teachers and staff, all interacting and sharing our lives together to ensure each child’s healthy growth, educational success and overall happiness. We all work very closely together to make sure that all interactions are positive, helpful and kind for each of our 930 children.

All of our children receive a careful assessment of their developmental needs. We work with each family to assure that their children’s social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs are met.

Our Early Care and Education Program serves infants and children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Our Before & After School Program serves children ages 6-14 years, as does our summer camp.

Partnerships Expand our Services

We are pleased to have many partnerships. We serve as the New Castle County Head Start Newark location, serving an additional 55 low-income children.

We also partner with Delaware Technical and Community College’s Early Childhood Education Program, Read About Delaware, Foster Grandparents, the University of Delaware Community Music School, the Newark Arts Alliance, the Lions Club, and many more organizations who help us provide an all-encompassing curriculum and outstanding services. We are a full United Way of Delaware Member Agency. In addition, we are proud to be among the very few Delaware childcare providers to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Working Parents Need Our Support

Working parents contribute to the economic stability of our communities. We help parents to work, and to be self-sufficient. They know that their childcare costs are affordable, and their children are receiving the best of care. Approximately 38% of our families come from families with incomes under $25,000, and 44% of our children come from African-American, Hispanic, or Asian cultures.

Because of funding from grants, governmental agencies, United Way and individuals, we are able to offer a sliding fee scale, allowing equal access to our service, regardless of ability to pay. We hope you will support our efforts, and the sacrifices made every day by the working parents of the families we serve.

Why our Capital Campaign is Necessary:

Our Board and Strategic Planning Committee conducted a thoughtful months-long assessment of our critical need to replace, maintain or improve our center to assure the greatest child safety and security and improve our learning environments.

For example, we must replace handrails to meet code requirements, and acquire a new child bus to meet Federal/State requirements. Our 20-year old kitchen needs to be updated to accommodate the number of children we now serve.

We Need Your Support . . .

Our Capital Campaign Budget:

- Renovations / Construction: $411,300
- Contingency: $28,000
- Equipment & Furnishings: $193,000
- Professional Fees: $35,000
- Maintenance Endowment: $100,000
- Cap. Campaign Expenses: $30,000
- Total Campaign Costs: $757,300

Supports These Critical Needs:

- Security Systems
- Playground equipment / surfaces
- HVAC system & ductwork
- Indoor and outdoor lighting
- Classroom cabinets & flooring
- Kitchen serving 300 meals/day
- Classroom internet connections
- Handicapped accessibility
- Fire suppression system

Your contribution is tax deductible, and may be paid over a 24-month period. Donations also may be made in the form of securities. We hope you will join with us to assure that the children in our care are in the safest and most nurturing learning environment possible.

Quotes from Parents and Students

“NDN was the heart of my childhood. It always felt like home to me with a close-knit faculty and smiling faces everywhere. I know that I am a better person today because of NDN.”

– Santana, Former NDN Student

“After losing my job in 2014, it became a real challenge to make ends meet, and you stuck with us. I’m very grateful. You have done more for our family than you know.”

– Rebecca, Former NDN Parent

“The teachers have been phenomenal and have made our transition as working parents much more comfortable. It means the world to us.”

– Nathaniel’s Dad

“Thank you for 12 years of excellent service. My 3-year-old twins and my 14-year-old daughter all received great care there . . . I believe my oldest daughter’s early years there have helped to make her the straight ‘A’ student that she is today.”

– Lulitza, Former NDN Parent

“As a child health professional, I was drawn to NDN for its rich diversity, high quality programming and commitment to serving low income families. As a parent, I know that my daughters have gotten more than I ever imagined from the caring, committed and creative staff.”

– Erin, Parent & Board Member
Our Programs

Early Childhood Care & Education
For children 6 weeks to 5 years, we provide developmentally appropriate classrooms for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, and a full day program for kindergarteners. We provide four age-appropriate playgrounds with specially selected equipment for each age group. Community resources enhance our children’s experience, such as the music/movement program in collaboration with the University of Delaware. They receive very special attention from the Foster Grandparents, and the Read Aloud Delaware volunteers.

School Age Before/After School Care
For children ages 6-14, we provide a place to unwind from the stress of the structured school day. They experiment with new areas of interest, and expand their socialization skills in a safe and nurturing environment. Children come before and after school, as well as for full-day care during school closings. The teacher-student ratio is 1:15. Children are grouped according to grade, and they enjoy our playgrounds, nature walks, creative art and dramatic play, as well as quiet activities and homework time. Special interest clubs are created each semester, as a direct response to the student requests.

Summer Camp
For children ages 6-14, we provide a flexible schedule for one week, or over the entire summer. We offer campers a fun, active atmosphere in our five-acre center. The children are divided into small groups by age or grade, to ensure they are receiving appropriate activities, socializations, and events. Field trips abound, including trips to local state parks and museums, and major theme parks.

Community Outreach
For our community, we provide sponsorships of family concerts and movies, and we’re involved in community events such as the Halloween Parade, Community Day, Newark Night, and other community projects.