



## **FRIENDS OF NEIGHBORHOOD EDUCATION in Brief**

### **What is a “Friends” group?**

In dozens of communities across this City, parents and community members have formed partnerships to support neighborhood public schools, in order to foster a robust learning environment for neighborhood children.

Friends groups are formed as a means to help facilitate the involvement and support of community members living within and near our neighborhood school catchments. The goal is to help support current and future staff, teachers, students and families in their effort to create and maintain a successful and safe school environment for all children who attend neighborhood schools.

### **What is Friends Of Neighborhood Education?**

The Friends Of Neighborhood Education (FONE) is a network of about 30 Friends groups that believes that a first-class education, within a safe school setting, should be the right of every child in Philadelphia.

FONE exists to help create mentor-protégé relationships between more experienced and fledgling groups, to create networks of support and development for neighborhood school leaders, and to spread the good news about neighborhood public schools.

### **What are FONE’s Medium- and Long-Term Goals?**

FONE aims to move beyond mere support for existing Friends groups to become a catalyst for the formation of new groups in areas where none currently exist. The network has expanded rapidly and new groups emerge regularly; nevertheless, at present FONE’s members tend to be found in either gentrified or gentrifying areas of the City. We want and know we need to be more diverse.

FONE also aims to launch an information campaign designed to counteract the litany of negativity in the mainstream media and to ‘spread the good news’ about neighborhoods public schools.

*We seek like-minded individuals and organizational partners who understand the importance of quality, neighborhood-based public schools to our City’s future.*

### **FONE in the media:**

- [Citizens of the Week: The Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition](#), Philadelphia Citizen, Mar 13, 2015
- [‘Friends of’ groups band together to support neighborhood schools](#), Newsworks, Mar 24, 2015
- [Friends to the Rescue](#), Philadelphia Citizen, Apr 6, 2016

### **For more information:**

- Contact Jeff Hornstein, Education Committee Chair, Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition – [jeff.hornstein@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.hornstein@gmail.com)
- “Like” the FONE Facebook page [www.facebook.com/philaFONE](http://www.facebook.com/philaFONE)
- Check out the FONE website: [www.philafone.org](http://www.philafone.org)