
Foreword

When a team of people first came together in 1990 and began to create the KIDS (Kids Involved in Doing Service) as Planners model, it was clear that this vision of engaging youth could create a positive revolution in the way communities worked. Since then, I've watched with admiration as dedicated groups of students joined community partners to address an array of challenging and worthwhile issues. KIDS projects are notable for their depth and diversity: students have interviewed senior citizens and portrayed their experiences on video; established recreation centers and community trails; advanced comprehensive planning efforts (confidently presenting their testimony to local councils); and organized educational campaigns to improve public health and safety.

Most recently, I experienced the superb work of Brunswick High School students who helped shape a balanced and innovative vision for future use of the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Seeing these students in action was a potent reminder of the valuable service that young people can provide when we invite them to help shape their community's future.

This book encourages community members to extend that invitation and enjoy the many benefits that KIDS projects provide—for the students involved, for the partners, and—most importantly—for the community at large.

Matthew Eddy
Director of Economic Development
Brunswick, Maine