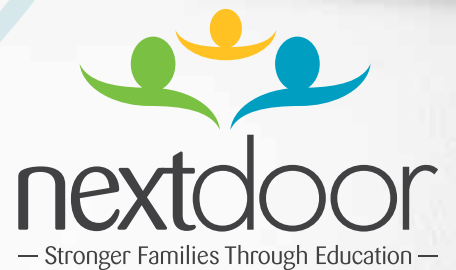




# Annual Report 2015 - 2016







## Mission:

Next Door's mission is to support the intellectual, physical, spiritual and emotional development of children so they become self-sufficient, contributing members of the community.

## A Letter from the Board Chair and President

Next Door is doing the most important work in Milwaukee – ensuring that our youngest children are prepared to succeed in school – and in life! Research continues to demonstrate that the years from birth to age three are the most critical for brain development. Every second in the first few years of life, the brain is making 700-1,000 new connections. Yes, every second! The focus of Next Door is on education in the early years to build a foundation for future success.

Fiscal year 2016 was exciting for us - we opened five new infant toddler classrooms at our Capitol Drive site, enabling us to serve 40 more children in an "Educare-inspired" environment. These classrooms use the same core principles of the Educare program and feature low student to teacher ratios, highly qualified teachers who are supported with embedded professional development, the use of data to ensure children are meeting developmental benchmarks, and engagement with families. We know the Educare model works and are pleased that we were able to expand it to another site.

This year also marked the 25th anniversary of Next Door's Books for Kids. This hallmark program has delivered over two million books over the years, to support children in building their own libraries to facilitate the development of their literacy skills. The program took a big step forward with the addition of our Mobile Library, thanks to the generosity of Harley-Davidson Motor Company. The Mobile Library made its debut at our annual Walk for Children event and has allowed us to increase our reach and better serve our partners in the community.

We had a banner year with our childcare partners. Inside this report, you will see a summary of all the hard work we did

\*Jorge Luis Garcia, James J. Heckman, Duncan Ermini Leaf, Maria Jose Prados, "The Life-cycle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program", HCEO Working Paper Series, No. 2016-035 (Chicago, IL, The University of Chicago, 12/2016). Available from <http://www.hceconomics.org>.



together to increase access to high quality infant and toddler care in Milwaukee. We are making an impact on our community beyond the walls of Next Door through our early childhood education programs.

We continue to work hard to engage our parents through many different activities and programs. We have a fatherhood initiative, adult basic education classes and many opportunities for parents to volunteer and learn with their children at special events.

Ensuring healthy brain growth and development through early childhood education not only benefits each individual child and family, but our society as well. A recent study\* by Nobel Prize Winner, Dr. James Heckman has found that the return on investment for early childhood education is \$13 for every dollar invested. Support for Next Door is an investment in Milwaukee's future.

We're proud of the work our staff does each and every day. The impact of our critical work throughout the Milwaukee community is broad and we hope you will consider being a part of it.

  
**Thomas Arenberg**  
Board Chair  
Next Door

  
**Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.**  
President  
Next Door



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Board Chair  
Accenture - Retired

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Next Door

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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US Bank

**Colette Theus**  
Parent Representative

**Bob VanHimbergen, CPA**  
Johnson Controls, Inc.

Partnership Support

We're proud of the work we do at Next Door, particularly through our partnerships with ten area childcare centers to increase access to high quality infant and toddler care. We support our partners with teacher coaching, curriculum and assessment training, and ensuring safe environments. This past year we have supported our partners in the following ways:

We provided \$10,000 or more in new classroom supplies for each location, as well as two laptops for each center and one iPad for every classroom.

We provided 15-20 hours of coaching support per week at each site for teaching staff from an Infant Toddler Readiness Coach.

All partner sites received a monthly stipend for each child enrolled in the program. In addition, if any child lost their Childcare Authorization through the state of Wisconsin, Next Door provided scholarship funding.

We helped over 90 teachers earn an Infant Toddler Credential through Milwaukee Area Technical College. Nine teachers earned their Infant-Toddler CDA (Child Development Associate credential).

We provided over 1,000 training opportunities through a quarterly training conference hosted by Next Door.

We supported staff attendance at professional conferences.

Partner site leadership staff participated in bi-weekly community of practice meetings with one another for support and training opportunities.

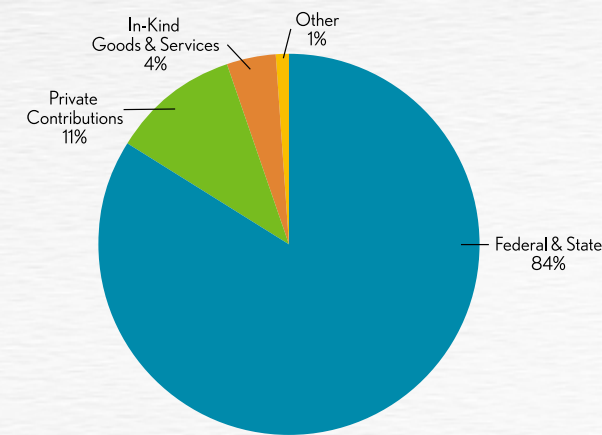
We installed brand new playgrounds at each location investing from \$15,000-\$50,000.





2015-2016 Operating Revenue

Year Ended June 30, 2016



Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage
Federal & State	21,904,640	84%
Private Contributions	2,835,341	11%
In-Kind Goods & Services	1,182,735	4%
Other	253,711	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,176,427</b>	<b>100%</b>

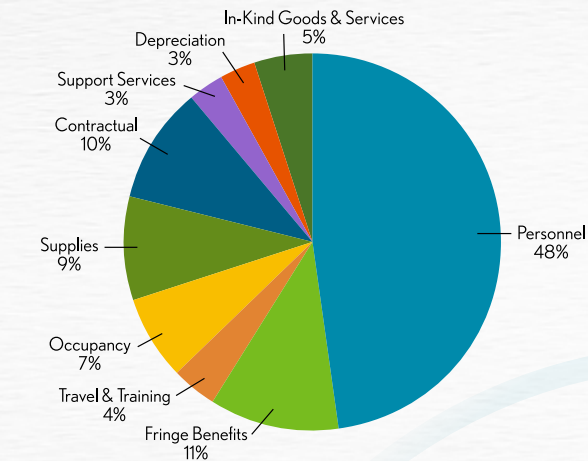
\*2015-16 figures represent audited financial statement.

Federal Review

The outcome of the Federal Monitoring Review for 2015-16 indicated that Next Door was in full compliance with the Head Start program and performance standards, regulations and policy requirements.

2015-2016 Operating Expense

Year Ended June 30, 2016



Operating Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Personnel	12,508,525	48%
Fringe Benefits	2,937,686	11%
Travel & Training	876,702	4%
Occupancy	1,883,583	7%
Supplies	2,289,182	9%
Contractual	2,607,712	10%
Support Services	767,710	3%
Depreciation	801,719	3%
In-Kind Goods & Services	1,182,735	5%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$25,855,554</b>	<b>100%</b>

Independent Federal Audit

Next Door continues to demonstrate strong financial and operational controls. The agency-wide audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, continued a determination of low risk audit status.

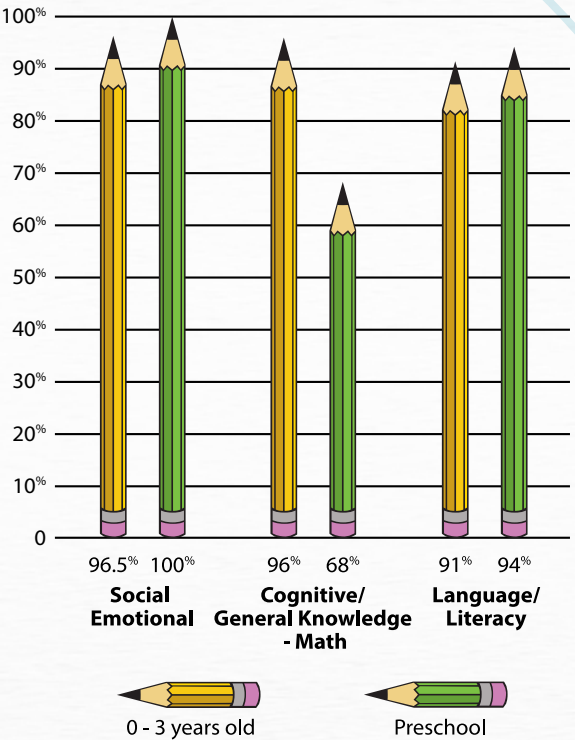
2016-2017 Proposed Budget

Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage
Federal & State	20,633,016	86%
Private Contributions	2,876,500	12%
Other	592,077	2%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$24,101,593</b>	<b>100%</b>

Operating Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Personnel	13,653,881	57%
Fringe Benefits	3,076,973	13%
Travel & Training	448,555	2%
Occupancy	604,500	2%
Supplies	973,775	4%
Contractual	2,676,680	11%
Support Services	1,754,658	7%
Depreciation	912,571	4%
Contingency	0	0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$24,101,593</b>	<b>100%</b>

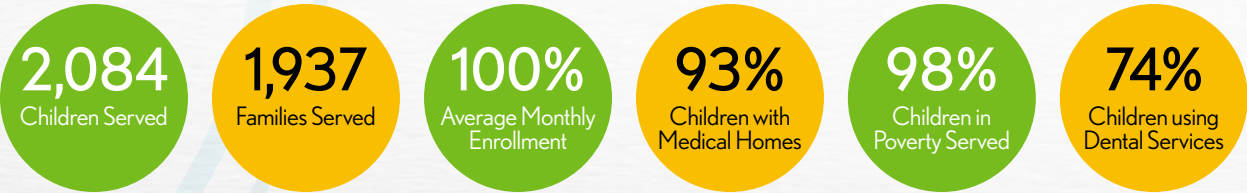
2015-2016 School Readiness Report

Children Meeting Developmental Benchmarks



2015-2016 Key Program Measures

Early Head Start & Head Start





## Crawford Success Story

In 2009, Delvyn Crawford, his wife and their two young children were in a tough spot. It was the middle of the recession and Delvyn had just lost his business. He moved his family into his in-laws' home and took a third-shift job just to make ends meet. The family was raising their two boys, Cade and Cyrus, in Milwaukee's central city. "At that time I was going through a lot of anxiety, frustration and worry," Delvyn said. To clear his mind he decided to take his children down to the lakefront. It was at that moment when he had a chance encounter that changed his family's life forever.

Delvyn said, "A lady happened to come up to me and saw my sons playing. She asked me, are they in day care or school?"



Because there is a school that I'm very familiar with. When it comes to the development of children – what they need in order to thrive – you should take them to Next Door." Delvyn was a little apprehensive. He'd heard about some of the problems with central city schools but the woman at the beach was so persuasive, he decided to give it a try.

Within a short period of time, Delvyn saw major transformations in both of his children. Cade, who was a shy student, "started to be more open. He started to talk more with the teacher and socialize with the children – I just saw a dramatic change in his whole attitude," said Delvyn. Cyrus had speech difficulties, but they faded away as the Next Door support system kicked in. "He wasn't able to pronounce certain words, but the teachers took their time and worked with him," Delvyn said.

Today Cyrus (second grade) and Cade (fourth grade) are doing exceptionally well. "They are off the charts right now. I mean Cyrus is in second grade, but he's reading at a third grade level. And I will tell you one area Cade is strong in – Math," Delvyn said.

And Delvyn's life has changed too. As he became more involved in his children's education he also participated in Next Door's Fatherhood program and took a leadership role on the Parent Policy Council. What came next was unexpected but well deserved. Delvyn was offered a full-time job at Next Door as the Fatherhood Specialist. Today he mentors other dads, teaching them how to be their child's first teacher.

The Crawford family has come a long way since their chance encounter along Milwaukee's lakefront. We know they have a very bright future ahead of them!



## Jennifer and Peter Buffett

Ten years ago Next Door's Educare Milwaukee was just a dream. Educare had opened its first two schools, in Chicago and Omaha. These were private/public partnerships supported by Susan Buffett, who wanted to impact poverty through education. Peter and Jennifer Buffett believed Milwaukee, their town, needed help to solve the difficulties facing families living in poverty. "We thought cities and philanthropists are going to spend a lot of money to do repair. Why don't we get ahead of the game and invest early in our kids and families?" said Jennifer. Discussions started in 2001 to bring this national early childhood education model to Milwaukee through Next Door. "Early on in this I think Milwaukee was really visionary. They really saw that breaking the cycle of poverty was possible for children and families," said Jennifer. The Next Door Board stepped up and persuaded others in the community to make significant gifts. But none of it would have been possible without the financial support of the Buffett family. "We support Next Door because it represents something that we've found to be important everywhere we go, which is essentially an ecosystem approach. It's really a family centered approach that makes all the difference," said Peter.

As part of a 21 school network, Educare is changing the lives of thousands of children and families across the nation. Research shows that we can have the greatest impact from age zero to five years when the brain is going through rapid development. By focusing on our youngest at risk children we are getting them ready for school and ready for life. "Most of you know me as the son of a famous investor. And so, I think I should give you some investment advice. And that would be to invest in the future of Milwaukee by investing in the future of our children. And the best place to do that is Educare and Next Door," said Peter.

## Books for Kids

On October 7, 2015, friends of Next Door gathered at the Milwaukee Art Museum to honor Mary Kellner and the Harley-Davidson Motor Company for their support of our Books for Kids program. For 25 years, they have helped Next Door improve childhood literacy by collecting and distributing two million books for Milwaukee children. The generosity of our event attendees raised over \$182,000 which allowed Next Door to build a new Giving Library at our Capitol Dr. location.







It is possible to improve a wide range of outcomes for vulnerable children well into the adult years, as well as generate benefits to society far in excess of program costs.

Harvard Center on the Developing Child

Donor Honor Roll

Gifts made between July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

\$100,000 +

Anonymous  
The Buffett Early Childhood Fund  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Anonymous Fund  
The Harley-Davidson Foundation  
Herzfeld Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Mary and Ted Kellner  
Northwestern Mutual Foundation  
Reader's Digest Foundation  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee  
and Waukesha County, Inc.

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Barbara and James Flint  
Arthur Flowers  
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