



Bright Futures

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

Our Vision is to position neighborhood children and families for long-term success.

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Hello from our President

I hope you're enjoying the summer! We've just wrapped up our 2016-2017 school year and are now preparing for the next one. As we transition, I wanted to share some successes from the past year.

We're proud to report that we received a perfect score on our YoungStar rating following a state review of our 29th Street campus. YoungStar is Wisconsin's quality rating system for child care programs and a perfect score is rare – in fact, we are the first organization in southeastern Wisconsin to achieve it!

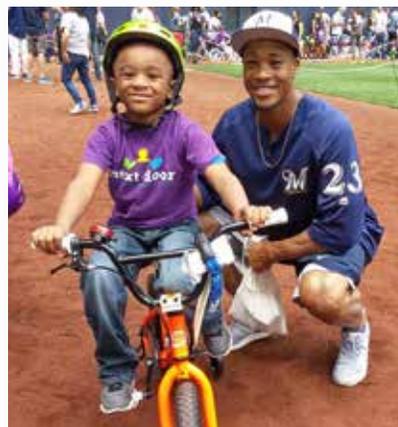
Here are a few other highlights:

- For the first time ever, our Books for Kids program surpassed 100,000 donated books within a single year.

- We formed a new partnership with the UW School of Medicine working to further engage families in Next Door literacy programs – read more inside.
- We launched a pilot backpack program with Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin to support our children with healthy foods at home.

We look forward to more “steps forward” for Next Door in the 2017-2018 school year, and thank you for helping us do the most important work in Milwaukee!

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President



Ready to Ride!

Check out Lazario and Amya on their new bikes! On June 21st, the Milwaukee Brewers invited Next Door to Miller Park where players and their wives, coaches, staff and volunteers from Master Lock built 100 bikes for Next Door students. The event was part of the team's “Beyond the Diamond” community initiative and included additional support from the Brewers Community Foundation.

The following week, we held a special family event at Next Door's Capitol Drive campus where we distributed the bikes to the children, along with donated helmets and locks. Families also received bicycle safety information and the students colored thank you letters for the Brewers and Master Lock. This was a memorable and thrilling opportunity for our children and we are so grateful for this generosity!

Thank You For Supporting the 2017 Walk For Children!

The 28th Annual Walk for Children took place Saturday, May 20th at our 29th Street campus. We had 1,205 registered participants and raised more than **\$145,000** to support Next Door's critical, early education programs. We welcomed Green Bay Packers Wide Receiver, **Davante Adams**, as our Walk Leader. He created some special moments along the walk and later on while reading to the children. Guests also enjoyed live music from Milwaukee's Eddie Butts Band, children's activities and free books from our **Books for Kids Mobile Library**. Thanks to a new partnership with the Green Bay Packers Community Partners program, including Boston Store, we received nearly **1,000 children's books** to distribute.



Walk Leader, Davante Adams, leads the crowd of Next Door supporters passing by our 29th Street campus in the Metcalfe Park neighborhood.



Walk Leader, Davante Adams, took time after the walk to read to some of the children at our Books for Kids Mobile Library.



A ride on a trike can be so much fun! The Harley-Davidson Trike Races were back at this year's walk – they are definitely a hit with the kids!

Thanks to our Presenting Sponsor



When the Walk for Children started 28 years ago, the Harley-Davidson Motor Company came on board as our Presenting Sponsor. Almost three decades later, the company continues in that role and we're incredibly grateful for this dedication. The employees are there for Next Door before the Walk helping us plan, recruiting participants and selling dozens of "grab bags" with company merchandise to support the event proceeds. When the Walk day arrives, we can always count on a large crew from Harley-Davidson to join us. This year, the company brought more than 400 employees and raised more than \$75,000! We thank you for making Next Door a part of the Harley-Davidson family – we're so glad to have you with us supporting the children and families of Next Door!

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We were honored to welcome Mayor Tom Barrett at this year's Walk for Children. He is pictured here with the crew from Rexnord, one of our corporate sponsors.



Summer Learning at Next Door

Willie and Cadence plant marigolds with their teachers in the playground flower beds at our 29th Street campus. The two boys are part of Next Door's year-round programming where the learning continues in and outside the classroom all summer long.

Building Strong Readers From Birth

Next Door, UW School of Medicine Partner on Literacy Project

There's a new student at Next Door these days... but she's not enrolled in any of our programs.

Priya Pathak is a third-year medical student at the University of Wisconsin. As a participant in TRIUMPH – Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health – **Priya is studying the impact of Next Door's literacy programs on our youngest learners (children 0 to 3).**

The work is based on research showing that high-quality, early childhood programming that promotes reading and family engagement lays the foundation for future success.

"I really want to be able to work with the community to improve health outside the context of medicine and hospitals. Education and literacy have huge roles to play, so I'm hoping to make an impact there," Priya shares.

Priya came to Next Door through our President, Dr. Tracey Sparrow, who worked with TRIUMPH in the past. "We are so thrilled to be partnering with TRIUMPH on a project that is only going to enhance what we offer our families and further build the parental engagement that is so key to a child's future success," Tracey shares.

While she is with us, Priya is "soaking up" the reading programs all over Next Door. You'll find her everywhere from volunteering in the classroom to joining our Books for Kids Mobile Library crew visiting our partnership sites for literacy events.

A big piece of the evaluation process is connecting with parents for feedback.

"The overarching goal is to develop programs for families that come from what the community is telling us," Priya shares.

So far, most parents are telling Priya that they want to learn more about Next Door's reading programs. At least 80 percent of those surveyed offer contact information for follow-up. Part of that follow-up from Next Door will include additional reading tips for home to help parents understand their role in promoting literacy early in life.

"For infants and toddlers, literacy often just means singing to them, talking to them, playing with them, and using different kinds of words with them. Those are all things our parents can do and we want to empower them and tell them they absolutely can make an impact on their child," Priya shares.

Priya says the entire process will be years in the making. She's planting the seed as the first TRIUMPH student partnering with Next Door.

"Instead of just giving an antibiotic or something to one child, I'm really trying to engage with a community, a group of children, in a more comprehensive way," Priya shares.



Priya Pathak, a medical student at UW-Madison, surveys a grandmother about Next Door reading programs while out with our Books for Kids Mobile Library.

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Moving On To Bright Futures!



Next Door K5 students sing "Down by the Bay" during this year's graduation ceremony on June 7th. Seventy-one children received their diplomas from Next Door during one of the most special days of the year for us. Thanks to your support, these students are now ready for success in school!