



Bright Futures

Connect With Us

414.562.2929
2545 N. 29th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210
NextDoorMKE.org



Get Involved

Volunteer or Host a Book Drive

Contact Martina at
414.562.2929 x2529
or mstevens@NextDoorMKE.org

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NextDoorMKE.org



Our Mission: Next Door supports the intellectual, physical and emotional development of children by partnering with their families for success in school and the community.

Our Vision: Next Door's vision is to position neighborhood children and families for long-term success.

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Hello from our President

One of my favorite things in my job is the opportunity to spread the word about the important work we're doing with children and families in Milwaukee's central city.

A big opportunity came in February when we launched an annual President's Luncheon for our community supporters. I was able to share Next Door's *2017 Report to the Community* with more than 65 guests, including Next Door donors, volunteers and community leaders.

Below are a few highlights from the report:

- We shared the latest research about the critical importance of high quality early childhood education. One of the most powerful pieces came from Harvard University's Center for the Developing Child, which released updated information showing that a child's brain makes more than one million new neural connections per second in the first few years of life.
- On average, our students scored 92 percent or higher on meeting developmental benchmarks, like language, literacy and social-emotional skills. Also of note is growth throughout the school year. From fall to spring, we recorded 36% growth in children for Mathematics and 30% growth for children in Literacy.

- We had nearly 2,000 volunteers perform more than 7,000 hours of service to Next Door including Read with Me, Holiday Gift Giving, classroom helpers and the Walk for Children.
- The introduction of our "One Next Door" model – an initiative taking the best practices of early childhood education from our Educare School and spreading them across all Next Door programming so every child gets a strong start.

You can read more in our *2017 Report to the Community* available at NextDoorMKE.org.

As we move forward, we are guided by our strategic plan, which positions Next Door as the preeminent leader in early childhood education in Milwaukee. In this newsletter, you'll read about our leadership of a professional development conference for 160 local early childhood education teachers as well as some outstanding literacy programming for students and families. I hope you enjoy this latest glimpse into Next Door.

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President

Register online at
www.NextDoorMKE.org

2018 Walk Leader
Green Bay Packers
Mike Daniels

Thank you to our
Presenting Sponsor

Walk for Children
Saturday, May 19, 2018

9:00am Registration
10:00am Walk Start
Rain or Shine
Next Door
2545 N. 29th St.
Milwaukee

For more information call Hannah
at 414.999.2510.

So Much Reading Joy!

From special guest readers to family literacy events, 2018 has already brought several memorable moments celebrating literacy at Next Door and with our partners. We thank everyone who made these sweet moments happen!

Special Guest Readers



State Senator LaTonya Johnson read to our children in our Books for Kids Library.



Milwaukee Bucks player Thon Maker visited for story time and career-themed activities with our students and families.



Next Door dads read to our classrooms as part of a Fatherhood enrichment program.

Book for Kids Donations



5,627 books donated from a school book drive in Kohler led by Riley, 10, and her sister McKenna, 13.



2,266 books donated by the E.W. Scripps company and its affiliates: TMJ4, WTMJ Radio, and KTI Country.



1,771 books donated from a book drive in the Mequon-Thiensville School District.

Reading Celebrations



Dr. Seuss fun during "Read with Me" celebrating his birthday in March.



Family literacy events in March featured Dr. Seuss face painting, planting, crafts and story time.



Pajama parties at our partner sites during our Books for Kids Mobile Library winter tour.

Black History Month at Next Door

During the month of February, we hosted Black History Month celebrations for families at each of our three center-based locations. Students prepared poster tributes in honor of Motown music legends and learned about different music genres to share at the celebrations. There were also poetry, chanting and dance presentations, plus several craft activities for children to engage in with their parents.



Students made instruments in honor of Motown music.



An African drum demonstration allowed students to experiment with drums.

The Next Door Children's Choir performed an African greeting in Swahili, plus tributes to gospel, jazz and civil rights era music.



Students performed with harmonicas in honor of blues singer Eric Bibb.

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Next Door Leads Early Learning Conference



Four times a year, Next Door leads a JumpStart Training conference for early childhood education professionals in Milwaukee. The latest session was held in February when 160 teachers came together to learn about best strategies and goal setting for parent-teacher conferences.

This professional development is one piece of a federal grant program led by Next Door with nine early learning partner organizations including COA Youth & Family Centers, Neighborhood House, St. Joseph Academy and the YMCA. In addition to the JumpStart training, Next Door deploys a team of instructional coaches who work closely with teachers at the partnership sites. The goal of this program is to help teachers strengthen their skills and qualifications, and ultimately increase access to high quality early childhood education in Milwaukee.



Next Door Foundation
2545 N. 29th Street
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Taking Learning Outside The Classroom



Our children learn how to make healthy treats when they visit the Helwig Carbon Products Kids Kitchen at Next Door. Pictured here is Karma putting blueberries into the fruit and vegetable smoothie she's making with help from nursing students at Cardinal Stritch University. We love to see how focused she is!