



Bright Futures

Connect With Us

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NextDoorMKE.org



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Volunteer or Host a Book Drive

Contact Martina at
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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

I hope you're enjoying the summer! One of the areas I'm particularly proud of at Next Door is the growing number of partnerships we have in the community. These partner organizations allow us to expand and enhance services for our children and families in many ways.

Here are a few examples:

- **The Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy** hosted two community health listening sessions at Next Door to learn more about neighborhood healthcare needs. Pharmacy students participated in our 2018 Walk for Children, and this fall, they will be a part of a community health and service learning program at Next Door offering health screenings for our families and community members.
- **The We Energies Foundation** chose Next Door as the beneficiary of its "K's for a Cause" charity program. Next Door will receive \$25 for every strikeout by a Milwaukee Brewers pitcher at home this season.

- **The Milwaukee Public Museum and Kohl's On the Move** outreach program appeared at the 2018 Walk for Children and scheduled three additional summer visits with our children and families, featuring interactive and educational activities about bees, butterflies and dinosaurs.

- **The Milwaukee Center for Independence** and the **Hunger Task Force** partnered with Next Door as a 2018 summer meal program site for children. This city-wide program offers daily, free lunches for kids under 18 and helps ensure Milwaukee children have access to healthy and nutritious food during the summer.

In addition to our partnerships, I want to let you know about our evolving focus to serve more children from zero to three and help fill a local gap for high quality early childhood education in the first few years of life. You can read more about this initiative in this newsletter. Thanks for your interest and support of Next Door!

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President



PNC Bank Surprises Teachers!

Next Door teachers received a generous surprise from PNC Bank this year – a nearly \$8,000 gift card donation to fund classroom resources and projects through DonorsChoose.org. PNC Bank partners with the online charity program to support early childhood education professionals across the country.

The bank's Regional President for Wisconsin, Chris Goller, delivered the surprise, which also included several iPads for Next Door classrooms. We are so grateful for the generosity of PNC Bank and the company's commitment to our city's youngest learners.

Thank You For Supporting the 2018 Walk For Children!

The 29th Annual Walk for Children took place Saturday, May 19th at Next Door's 29th Street campus. We had **750 participants** and **raised nearly \$150,000** to support the high quality early child education programs we offer to central city families. This year's Walk Leader was **Green Bay Packers Defensive Tackle, Mike Daniels**. The Walk also featured several new attractions, including the **Betty Brinn Children's Museum, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Discovery World's Kohl's Design It! Lab, Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy, Milwaukee Public Museum and Kohl's On the Move** outreach program and the **Wisconsin State Fair**. Our Books for Kids team was there distributing **300 free books** from our Books for Kids Mobile Library.



Green Bay Packers Defensive Tackle, Mike Daniels, waves to neighbors while leading the 2018 Walk for Children.

Thanks to our Presenting Sponsor

The Walk for Children couldn't happen without the generous and continuous support of our Presenting Sponsor – the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. They first took on this role in 1989 when the Walk for Children started. This year, Harley-Davidson employees were a part of the Walk planning committee and participated in several internal fundraisers to support the event, including grab bag sales with company merchandise, an ice cream social and "penny wars." Overall, the company and its staff raised more than \$72,000 for Next Door. We are so grateful to have you as a partner and thank you for your unwavering devotion to the children and families of Next Door!



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Walk Leader, Mike Daniels, reads "Super Fly Guy" to children outside our Books for Kids Mobile Library.



Children and their families enjoyed interactive activities from Discovery World's Kohl's Design It! Lab.



The Milwaukee Bucks Dancers greeted guests with stickers after crossing the finish line.

Serving our Youngest Learners

Starting this fall, Next Door will place a greater emphasis on serving more children ages zero to three. This move is a part of our Strategic Plan because the first three years of life are so critical to a child's brain development.



By reaching more children earlier on, our team has the strongest opportunity to close the achievement gap for children living in poverty and get them ready for school. By 2020, our goal is to have 50% of the children we serve between the ages of zero to three.

Zero to Three: By the Numbers

- **85%** of a child's brain growth occurs before the age of 3.
- A child's brain makes more than **1 million** new neural connections per second in the first few years of life.
- There are not enough high quality early learning centers for an estimated **6,000** infants & toddlers living in four high-needs zip codes.
- Next Door will serve **96** more children ages 0-3 in the 2018-2019 school year, for a total of **676** children served in this age group.
- Next Door will create **12** new infant/toddler classrooms, **2** indoor gross motor play areas and **1** outdoor playground.

Looking for a way to engage your company in the community?

Next Door has a three-part package that offers direct engagement with students, an opportunity to involve the whole company, and learning about the importance of early childhood education.

- 1 Learn about the mission and critical work happening at Next Door with a presentation at your office from a Next Door leader.
- 2 Volunteer on-site reading to Next Door children in our library or cleaning/repairing donated books for our Books for Kids program.
- 3 Host a book drive to build our library.

To learn more, contact Martina at 414.999.2529 or at mstevens@NextDoorMKE.org

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Tending to the garden!



Next Door students are spending the summer getting their hands dirty in our school garden. They are learning about the planting process and the maintenance required to keep the flowers, herbs and vegetables blooming. Pictured here are children working with volunteers from ManpowerGroup.