



Bright Futures

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Winter 2019

Connect With Us

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



Get Involved

Volunteer or Host a Book Drive

Contact Martina at
414.999.2529
or mstevens@NextDoorMKE.org

Donate

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.

Hello from our President

Have you heard the exciting news? Next Door is turning 50 this year! It's a major anniversary milestone that we are so proud of and one we plan to celebrate in many ways throughout 2019. We are dedicating this latest newsletter entirely to Next Door's 50th anniversary to share a look back at how Next Door began in 1969 and fill you in on what we're planning for the year.

We kicked off the celebration on January 25 with our President's Breakfast at the place where the Next Door story began – Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Milwaukee's near west side. It was a wonderful morning to reflect on our past, our latest accomplishments and look ahead with so many Next Door supporters. A special thanks to Our Savior's for allowing us to return to our roots for the anniversary launch.

During the event, I had the chance to share Next Door's 2018 Report to the Community. The report offers a look at everything from student performance to a growing list of community and national partnerships. Highlights include:

- 88% of Next Door students met development benchmarks in the areas of literacy, mathematics, cognitive, language and social emotional development.

- We opened ten new classrooms and age-appropriate indoor and outdoor play areas to serve more children from birth to three years old – a critical period of brain development.
- We formed nine new partnerships with local and national organizations. They include: Employ MKE, LENA, Literacy Lab and Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy.
- In a survey, 100% of our volunteers say they are satisfied or very satisfied, are likely to return, and likely to recommend Next Door as a place to volunteer.
- To read the full 2018 Report to the Community, visit NextDoorMKE.org

While the focus and location of Next Door has changed over the years, one constant remains – Next Door's steadfast commitment to serving the educational and social service needs in some of Milwaukee's highest-need zip codes. Together, we are strengthening families and building a stronger Milwaukee! I hope you'll join us in celebrating this momentous year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tracey Sparrow".

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President



Next Door 50th Anniversary Campaign Kick-Off!

Nearly 70 guests came out on January 25 for our President's Breakfast, which featured the kick-off to Next Door's 50th Anniversary Campaign at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee – the place where Next Door began. The program included a look back at the founding of Next Door from Our Savior's parishioner, Todd Gordon (pictured above), remarks from two of the Literacy Lab's Leading Men Fellows working at Next Door this school year and our anniversary celebration plans for the rest of the year. Look inside for more details at what's ahead.

Help celebrate our 50th!



Fundraising Campaign

Support Next Door's early childhood programming including: high quality teaching practices, art education, Books for Kids, mental health programs, family engagement and teacher development.

Further, we will improve our learning environment through renovations at our 29th Street campus.

Community Relations

Partner with 50 organizations on book drives, volunteering and community events.

Promote a literacy campaign with parents and in Next Door neighborhoods.

Share Next Door stories from our beginnings through today.

Events

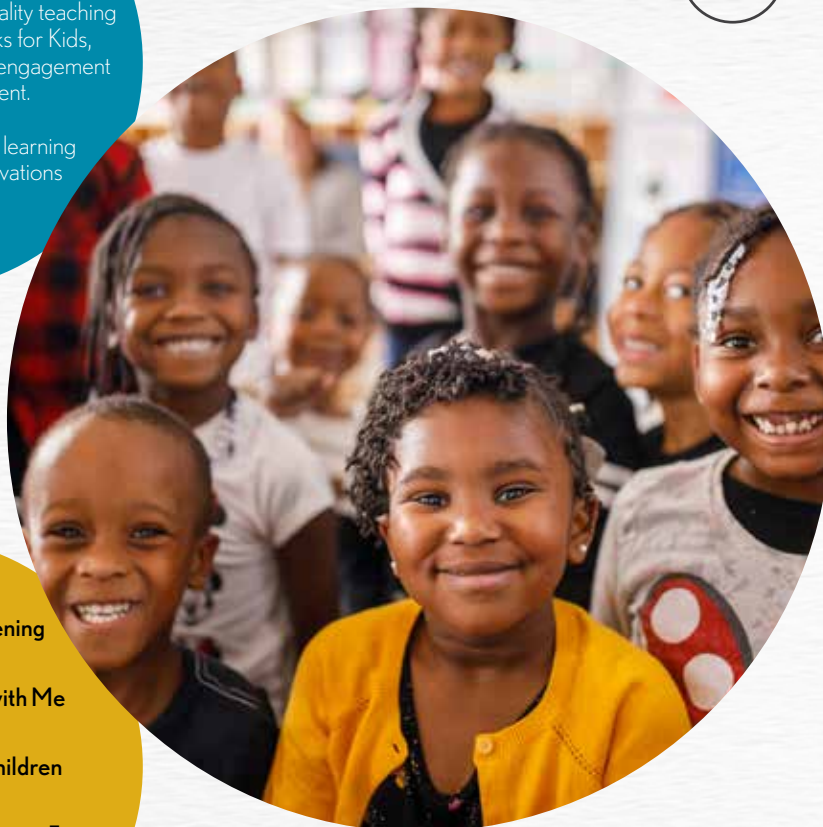
No Small Matter Screening
February 27, 2019

Community-wide Read with Me
April 30, 2019

30th Annual Walk for Children
May 18, 2019

Early Childhood Education Expert Forum
Summer 2019

50th Anniversary Celebration
October 3, 2019



To learn more about how you can get involved in our anniversary programming, visit www.NextDoorMKE.org or contact Hannah Harris at 414.999.2510 or hharris@NextDoorMKE.org.

1969

Our Savior's Lutheran Church opens a youth and young adult outreach center located next door to the church.

1971

The program incorporates as a nonprofit organization in the State of Wisconsin - Next Door Foundation.

1974

The Genesis outpatient alcohol and drug treatment program opens with personal and group counseling services, along with employment and housing assistance, adult education and medical treatment.

1975

The Early On home visitation program begins, serving families with children from birth to five years old.

1987

Next Door manages the Hope Apartments on North 27th Street, providing permanent housing for low-income residents.

1992

Next Door moves into its new home in the former Helwig Carbon Products factory building along North 29th Street.

1993

Next Door's first classroom-based Head Start program begins.

Next Door's Beginnings

Former Our Savior's Lutheran Church pastors
reminisce about the founding of Next Door

In the 1960s, three pastors at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee often shared living room conversations where they dreamed about the future of their church. One of those dreams was to expand a youth and young adult ministry.

"We had a lot of young people in the neighborhood and we knew we had to do more than just take care of our own," Rev. Glenn Nycklemoe said.

Rev. Nycklemoe served alongside Rev. Charles Berdahl and Rev. Louis Accola.

Working with parishioners and lay leaders, they expanded the youth and young adult ministry to a church parsonage located right next door to Our Savior's. Programming began with a drop-in center for teens and young adults to gather for fellowship in a safe, fun and welcoming environment.

"It was for everyone – that's how we approached the work," Rev. Berdahl said.

As community support grew for this outreach ministry, church leaders decided it was time to incorporate as a non-profit in 1971. A church member named Don Mundt, who was an attorney for Northwestern Mutual Life, assembled a team from his company to draw up the incorporation papers and officially name the ministry Next Door.

Future programming included an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment program, a summer youth employment initiative, adult education and a home visitation program to support young families. The pastors stayed involved throughout their service to the church.



Rev. Glenn Nycklemoe gathers with neighborhood youth outside the old Next Door house during his former service as a pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

"I was often meeting folks there that needed to have conversations and positive relationships," Rev. Berdahl recalled.

"I remember sitting around with just a bunch of kids – they would ask questions, they had some religious questions from time to time," Rev. Nycklemoe recalled.

Next Door carried on for about two decades with Our Savior's Lutheran Church before a move to the central city and a shift toward early childhood education. The church parsonage Next Door occupied later became the Brumder Mansion Bed & Breakfast.

When asked about the Next Door of today, the pastors we spoke with were thrilled to see how far the organization has come since their living room conversations decades ago.

"I'm just so proud of what happened to our dream – it took on a life of its own and became so much more than we expected," Rev. Berdahl said. "It just makes me very, very happy to see what has happened," Rev. Nycklemoe said.

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1997

Next Door begins its four- and five-year-old kindergarten programs with Milwaukee Public Schools.

2005

Educare opens at Next Door – the third Educare school in the country – bringing its best practice early childhood education model to Milwaukee.

2013

Next Door becomes the second largest Head Start program in Milwaukee County.

2014

Next Door opens its Capitol Drive campus.

2015

Next Door launches the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership with ten early childhood education organizations in Milwaukee and Ozaukee counties.

2019

Next Door currently serves nearly 1,700 children, from birth to five years old, through center- and home-based programs and 11 partnership sites in Milwaukee's central city.



Next Door Foundation
2545 N. 29th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210

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Celebrating 50 years of Next Door families!



Meet Jautone Ferguson and her children: Aiden, 6, Ameah, 4, Ahmir, 3 and Ahmad, 1. All four children attend Next Door. Jautone is an active parent volunteer who is in school right now earning a degree in Human Services. You can watch a video profiling this family on our website at NextDoorMKE.org.