



# Bright Futures

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Spring 2019

## 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  
414.999.2529  
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

One of the most heartwarming experiences we enjoy at Next Door is seeing our children engaged in story time with volunteers. Our Read with Me program regularly creates that experience during the week in our libraries. On April 30, we took it a huge step further and filled every one of our classrooms with volunteer readers as part of a Community Read with Me event in conjunction with our 50th Anniversary celebration this year. You can read more inside.

We have more to be proud of this year:

- **We opened our Family Success Center at our 29th Street campus.** This space will offer Next Door families and the neighborhood a hub of needed services – including physical health screenings, mental health counseling, and housing assistance – delivered by some of our community partners. Read more inside.
- **We partnered with Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Milwaukee Succeeds, and United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County to bring a new documentary to Milwaukee about the**

**importance of investing in high quality early childhood education.** More than 100 guests came to a screening of *No Small Matter* at Marquette University, including Mayor Tom Barrett.

- **We welcomed a crew from the Educare Learning Network to get classroom footage and staff interviews at Educare Milwaukee at Next Door.** The network included the material in a video shown at last month's 2019 Educare Learning Network Meeting with nearly 300 early childhood professionals from across the country.

All of these efforts come during a momentous year for Next Door marking our 50th Anniversary! We've enjoyed some wonderful celebrations and more are coming. We hope you can join us in commemorating this major milestone!

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.  
Next Door President



## Celebrating Black History!

Students and teachers at all three Next Door sites hosted Black History programs in February for families. Parents had a chance to see their children deliver African chants, sing songs like "This Little Light of Mine," and recite poems by Langston Hughes.

The tributes also included an art gallery celebrating African American artists and hands-on activity stations creating African masks, African hair styles and bracelets. It was wonderful to see so many parents joining their children for this important observance. We thank our staff for their hard work and creativity in making these events a success!



# Next Door's 50th Anniversary

Next Door is celebrating a major milestone in 2019 – 50 years of serving the Milwaukee community. To commemorate the occasion, we launched a year-long 50th Anniversary Fundraising and Community Relations Campaign in January. Below are some highlights so far this year.



## Community Read with Me



We welcomed 335 community volunteers to Next Door on April 30 to spend a morning reading stories to our children at all three of our locations. With their support, we were able to ensure that every Next Door student – from infants to K5 – enjoyed one-on-one story time. In addition, every student received a free book to take home to build their home library. We thank all of our volunteers for helping us spread the joy of reading to our city's youngest learners! See more photos on our Facebook page – @NextDoorMKE.

## Save the Date

Next Door's  
50th Anniversary  
Celebration  
Thursday, October 3rd

## 50 Years. 50 Partners.

During this 50th Anniversary year, we are partnering with 50 organizations to help support our work at Next Door. So far this year, we've enjoyed some wonderful partners and are so grateful for their support!



Our children enjoyed a special anniversary visit from **Bango** with the **Milwaukee Bucks**!



**E.W. Scripps Company** donated 1,356 new books and employees read to our children.



**Colectivo Coffee** led a book drive at all 13 Milwaukee area locations.

### Book Drives, Volunteers & Visits

Advent Church  
Advocate Aurora Health  
Associated Bank  
Baird  
Burleigh Elementary School  
Cushing Elementary School  
Equips  
First Book & Disney's 2019 Magic of Storytelling & WISN  
Fiserv Forum – Disney on Ice  
Girl Scout Troop – Christ King  
GPS School  
Greendale Playschool  
Greendale Middle School

Gruber Law Offices  
Holy Family Church  
JCP Construction  
Marquette University  
Medical College of WI -School of Pharmacy  
Milwaukee Brewers  
Milwaukee Police Department – District 3  
PNC Bank  
Rexnord  
Starbucks  
St. Eugene School  
St. Robert School  
Tikkun Ha-Ir of Milwaukee  
Thrivent  
Women's Club of WI

### Events & Promotions

City of Milwaukee Office of Early Childhood Initiatives  
Good City Brewing  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Milwaukee Succeeds  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Shepherd Express  
Tribeca Gallery Café & Books  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County

Want to partner with us? Contact Hannah Harris to learn more at 414.999.2510 or at [hharris@NextDoorMKE.org](mailto:hharris@NextDoorMKE.org).



## Next Door's Family Success Center now open!

A vacant space with a waiting room and a long hallway of offices is buzzing again at Next Door's 29th Street campus. The revitalized area houses our Family Success Center where three community partners are helping increase access to much-needed services for Next Door families and the neighborhood.

### Children's Hospital of Wisconsin:

A Community Health Navigator offers one-on-one counseling and community resources to help parents overcome obstacles in their lives. The support includes housing, healthcare and special services for children.

### Marquette University and Mental Health of America:

The Next Step Clinic opens later this year to address the mental health and developmental needs of Milwaukee's underserved children and families. Marquette faculty and graduate students will work with local mental health advocates offering direct consultations for clients.

### Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy:

MCW runs a community-based health screening and care referral service led by pharmacists. Screenings include blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol – plus tips for healthy living and disease prevention, and resources for further care if needed.

## Next Door, Marquette partner to boost childhood literacy

Kara Poppe arrived at Next Door in September of 2018. Her task: create a new cohort of Early Literacy Fellows supporting children during the most important developmental years – from birth to three.

**"By having the Early Literacy Fellows in the classrooms, we hope to increase more one-on-one interactions and reciprocity back and forth with the children to facilitate their brain development," Kara explained.**

Kara is leading this effort as a Marquette University Trinity Fellow. The Trinity Fellowship gives Marquette graduate students leadership experience in community building by spearheading special projects for local nonprofits.

**Kara launched a pilot program at Next Door with three Early Literacy Fellows in October 2018. Today, there are 14 fellows – all Marquette University undergraduates who volunteer up to three times a week.** With training from Kara, Next Door staff, and Next Door's Literacy Coach-in-Residence Paula Rhyner, the volunteers support classroom teachers with an emphasis on building a child's language and literacy skills.

"The Early Literacy Fellows are narrating their actions, singing songs with the children, and reading books to them. They are also doing fine and gross motor activities to help the children develop skills so they can later hold their own book or hold a pencil," Kara said.

Miranda Spindt (pictured) – a Marquette freshman in the Burke Scholars program – is one of the original three Early Literacy Fellows.



**"I've always done service but never something like this - working in a classroom with such young children – so it's really exciting. I've really loved working here," Miranda said.**

What's making the experience especially exciting for Miranda is witnessing firsthand the impact of the work she's supporting in the classroom.

**"I remember one day I walked in and one of my kids ran up to me and said, 'I have a book,' and he had never said that to me before – a full sentence!" Miranda said.**

Miranda says this experience at Next Door will stay with her long into the future. She hopes to pursue politics and influence early childhood education policy.

Kara says building advocacy for the work of Next Door is part of the goal of her program. She'll continue leading the Early Literacy Fellows through the spring of 2020.



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Next Door Foundation  
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Milwaukee, WI 53210

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## *Disney on Ice comes to Next Door!*



We welcomed the crew from *Disney on Ice* to Next Door in February during the company's Milwaukee performances at the Fiserv Forum. The visit featured some of the show's performers who read Disney stories to our K5 students and joined them for some Disney character coloring fun. There was also a surprise guest at the end – Mickey Mouse!