



Bright Futures

Volume 3 • Number 3

Summer 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

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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.

Hello from our President

We are now halfway through a milestone year for Next Door and are grateful for all of the community support in honor of our 50th Anniversary. This summer, we enjoyed some generous corporate partnerships at the biggest event of the year in Milwaukee - Summerfest! You can read more about the contributions from Northwestern Mutual and Harley-Davidson Motor Company below - plus additional partners inside.

We have more to be proud of this summer.

- We joined Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett in a press conference on June 27, 2019, recognizing federal grant funding for Next Door from the Office of Head Start to serve nearly 750 children from birth to five years old. Several local media outlets covered the event including BizTimes Media and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.
- We launched our Summer Reading program with United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County to help children build home libraries. The agency funds literacy activities and

books that we give away for free on our Books for Kids Mobile Library during community events and visits to our 11 early childhood partnership sites in Milwaukee.

- We completed our first year with the Leading Men Fellowship program from the Literacy Lab. Four fellows from Milwaukee worked in Next Door classrooms as part of an effort to expose more men of color to careers in early childhood education and help children develop stronger literacy skills.

Looking ahead to the fall, we'll be hosting Next Door's 50th Anniversary Celebration in October - marking the pinnacle event in our 50th Anniversary Campaign. We hope you can join us to celebrate 50 years serving Milwaukee. Read inside for more details. Thanks for your interest and support of Next Door!

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

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President



Next Door at Summerfest!

Northwestern Mutual selected Next Door as the beneficiary of its "Make a Child Smile" Day on July 6, 2019 at Summerfest. The program offered free admission to the first 1,500 guests who brought children's books to donate. A total of 4,181 books were collected. They will support Next Door's Books for Kids program, which distributes free books to Milwaukee children to help them build home libraries.

Also on July 6, 2019, Harley-Davidson Motor Company offered the VIP Harley Deck to all Next Door employees to spend the afternoon. Each employee and a guest enjoyed free beverages and food in the private seating area with a great view of the Summerfest grounds. We want to thank both Harley-Davidson and Northwestern Mutual for these amazing opportunities and for their long-term support of Next Door!

Next Door's 50th Anniversary



Next Door is celebrating a major milestone – 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 the latest highlights from this year.

Walk for Children • May 19, 2019

More than 500 guests and volunteers came to the 2019 Walk for Children at Next Door's 29th Street campus. The event raised nearly \$150,000 to support Next Door's early childhood education programs. Green Bay Packers Defensive Tackle Kenny Clark was our Walk Leader.

We honored the Harley-Davidson Motor Company – the Presenting Sponsor for the Walk since it started 30 years ago. In 2019, the company reached a milestone year of giving to Next Door – surpassing \$1 million in employee support! See more photos on our Facebook page – @NextDoorMKE.



Register today!

Next Door's
50th Anniversary Celebration
Thursday, October 3rd
5:30 pm to 8 pm
Northwestern Mutual

Sponsorship & ticket information at
NextDoorMKE.org/donate-now/special-events/

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 grateful for their support! Here some recent partnership highlights.



Milwaukee Ballet

brought its Ballet Beat program to Next Door on June 25, 2019. Ten dancers performed beautiful poses and dance sequences and offered lessons for the children. There was also story time and a look at ballet clothing and shoes. In addition, the Ballet hosted a book drive for Next Door during its performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Scholastic and Boswell Books

partnered with Next Door for a "Read-A-Palooza" event on June 28, 2019. The summer reading celebration included a visit from Clifford, literacy-themed activities and a free book for every child to take home. In addition, Boswell Books collected donations of children's books for Next Door at a separate store celebration.



Gruber Law Offices

collected more than 5,000 books in book drives this year to support Next Door's Books for Kids program. Employees also signed up for multiple Read with Me volunteer sessions, spending time reading one-on-one with our students in the library.

For a full list of our partners, visit NextDoorMKE.org/get-involved/50years/community-relations/.
Want to partner with us? Contact Hannah Harris to learn more at 414.999.2510 or at hharris@NextDoorMKE.org.

Red Nose Day salutes Next Door teacher



The 2019 Red Nose Day campaign from Comic Relief USA recognized ShaLaya Morehouse for her passion and commitment as a teacher for Educare Milwaukee at Next Door.

The national recognition came in May when the campaign to end childhood poverty featured ShaLaya in a case study utilized in Red Nose Day publicity. The Educare Learning Network – which includes Next Door’s Educare Milwaukee – submitted the study to show the impact of grant funding the Network received from the campaign last year for its early childhood support of children living in poverty.

Some of our students also joined in the Red Nose Day festivities this year wearing those famous red noses! You can read ShaLaya’s story at <https://www.nextdoormke.org/category/blog/>.



Next Door K5 grad ready for school!



On her first day of kindergarten at Next Door, Javeyah Walton’s teachers recall a difficult start to the year.

“Javeyah was crying on the carpet, she didn’t want to eat breakfast. She was very upset and was yelling at the other students,” Ms. Kathy said.

As the year went on, Ms. Kathy remembers a few more instances where Javeyah lost her temper in class. She and her co-teacher, Ms. Payne, worked with Javeyah on controlling her behavior with lessons on sharing and compromising. They also utilized a color-coded feeling zone project to identify how students felt at the start of each day.

“Now, Javeyah is a totally transformed student,” Ms. Kathy said. “She is able to work through her issues that happen in class without losing her temper and she trusts her teachers to handle problems that arise.”

Javeyah’s turnaround in K5 also included significant academic gains.

Her teachers report she is reading and writing above grade level.

Javeyah also took on several leadership roles in her class.

“Javeyah has grown to be a great leader and role model for her friends,” Ms. Payne said. “She helped them with their stories during our writer’s workshop time. She read our Calm Classroom exercises (mindfulness programming) and the children would listen and follow along with her.”

Javeyah’s mother, Erica Jenkins, first enrolled her daughter in Next Door’s home-based program when she was two. A year later, Javeyah transitioned to the center-based program at Next Door’s Capitol Drive campus.

Javeyah’s mom says her daughter developed a love of learning at Next Door that went well beyond the classroom.

“She reads every night. She also does little spelling quizzes with her brother and sister with her words from school seeing who can spell them the fastest. She’s definitely ready for school,” Erica said.

Javeyah plans to attend first grade at Central City Cyber School in Milwaukee. When we asked her what she’s looking forward to, her answer was simple and encouraging – “To learn,” she said.

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More than 25 years of service as a teacher at Next Door!



Meet Ms. Lily! She started working at Next Door in 1993 in the home-based program and later transitioned to become a teacher in the classroom. She's pictured here in her three-year-old classroom at our Capitol Drive campus working with Samiyah on a caterpillar art project.