



Bright Futures

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NextDoorMKE.org



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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.

Letter from the President

I'm writing this letter with a tremendous amount of gratitude to our community supporters. On October 3, 2019, we hosted Next Door's 50th Anniversary Celebration at Northwestern Mutual. More than 400 guests joined us for a memorable evening to honor this momentous year and helped us raise more than \$250,000 to support Next Door's critical early childhood programs. You can read more inside.

I'm also excited to share new community partnerships unfolding during our 50th Anniversary year that will enhance the quality of our programming.

- We welcomed 30 Marquette University students who are volunteering in Next Door classrooms as part an AmeriCorps program called 414 Fellows. The fellows are supporting classrooms serving children from birth to three-years-old and working with them on literacy and language development plus fine and gross motor activities.
- We welcomed two graduate students from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee who are interning at Next Door supporting student/employee mindfulness programming and arts education for children. The students are

part of the university's Master of Sustainability Peacebuilding Program in the College of Nursing.

- We launched a partnership with LENA - a national program aimed at building conversational skills for children from birth to three to support a critical period of brain development. LENA offers a safe recording device that captures a child's conversations with teachers and allows researchers from Marquette University and University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee to measure progress and improve conversational practice.

We're continuing successful programs and partnerships for the 2019-2020 school year including: Leading Men Fellowship from The Literacy Lab, the On the Table community-building initiative from Greater Milwaukee Foundation and literacy support from Executive Women International. You can read more about these efforts inside and see how they are helping us do the most important work in Milwaukee!

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President

Northwestern Mutual spotlights Next Door in Giving Gallery

Northwestern Mutual opened the Giving Gallery: Community in Process in 2018 to recognize and celebrate the important work of nonprofit organizations around the country through art. This fall - in honor of Next Door's 50th Anniversary in 2019 - the Giving Gallery's Seasonal Spotlight features a piece of artwork inspired by Next Door created by local Artist Rosy Petri.

The gallery officially debuted this tribute on October 17, 2019. The piece is made of fabrics and features the word "Together" in American Sign Language. With Next Door serving children, Petri wanted to keep them in mind and offer a fun and unique way for kids to learn about the importance of community togetherness. We are so appreciative of this special

opportunity to showcase Next Door to the community and thank Rosy Petri for her beautiful work and Northwestern Mutual for its support. The Giving Gallery is open to the public and the Next Door piece will be on display through December.



Next Door's 50th Anniversary



Next Door is celebrating a major milestone – 50 years serving the Milwaukee community. To commemorate the occasion, we launched a year-long 50th Anniversary Fundraising and Community Relations Campaign in January. Below is a recap of our latest event.

50th Anniversary Celebration - October 3, 2019

More than 400 guests attended Next Door's 50th Anniversary Celebration at Northwestern Mutual in downtown Milwaukee. More than \$250,000 was raised to support the critical early childhood education programs our team delivers to central city families.

The evening included guests from Next Door's past and present to celebrate our achievements over 50 years and the long-time community

supporters who have gone above and beyond to ensure Next Door's success and impact. We also welcomed Milwaukee Writer and Artist Dasha Kelly Hamilton and Next Door Alumnus JohnQuell Tucker as our guest speakers.

We thank everyone for joining us and are grateful for the outpouring of support for Next Door. See more photos from the event on our Facebook page - @NextDoorMKE.

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Brenda and Matt Levatich served as the 50th Anniversary Celebration chairs.



Longtime Next Door supporters Mary and Ted Kellner (second couple from left) served as a Presenting Sponsor for the event and hosted this table of devoted Next Door friends.



Next Door Alumnus JohnQuell Tucker received a standing ovation after sharing his success story with the crowd.



Guests visited the Books for Kids Book Store and made gifts to help Next Door students build their home libraries.



Current and past members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Next Door's founding organization.



Mary Conlon (bottom row, second from left) retired from Next Door in 2017 after 44 years of service.

To get involved in our 50th Anniversary Fundraising and Community Relations Campaign, visit NextDoorMKE.org/get-involved/50years/ or contact Hannah Harris at 414.999.2510 or at hharris@NextDoorMKE.org.

Next Door, Northwestern Mutual partner for *On the Table*

Next Door and Northwestern Mutual co-hosted a community conversation on October 10, 2019, as part of the *On the Table* program from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. We welcomed nearly 60 guests at our event at Northwestern Mutual featuring a screening of the documentary *No Small Matter* about the importance of investing in early childhood education. Participants engaged in follow-up conversations about the film and the role of high quality early childhood education as a way to strengthen our city's future. Those attending represented

organizations including: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Marquette University, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee Succeeds and Northwestern Mutual.



EWI Reading Rally comes to Next Door

We welcomed 81 members of Executive Women International (EWI) in September for a special morning supporting our efforts to build early childhood literacy. The group was in Milwaukee for its annual conference and selected Next Door as a site to visit for its Reading Rally program. Highlights included: one-on-one reading time with students, a visit from local children's author Jamie Knisbeck and illustrator Charlie Christman to read their book, "The Birthday Monster," a \$500 check presentation, a donation of 2,423 books for our Books for Kids program, a large rug for our library, and bags for every child with toothbrushes, toothpaste and other goodies.

In addition, the Milwaukee chapter of EWI funded two Little Free Libraries for our two sites through a chapter donation made in honor of a long-time fellow member who passed away. We want to thank both the local chapter and the national EWI organization for their valuable contributions to Next Door.



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Leading Men Fellowship marks second year at Next Door



Leading Men Fellow, Jovan Cardona, works with Ma'Kynzi on a drawing and writing project in her K4 classroom. He is one of seven fellows at Next Door this year as part of a program from The Literacy Lab, which offers young men of color a chance to explore a career in education while helping children get ready for school.