

Bright Futures

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Connect With Us

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NextDoorMKE.org



Get Involved

Volunteer or Host a Book Drive

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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.

Letter from the President

In this new year, we have much to be grateful for at Next Door. We recently wrapped up our year-long 50th Anniversary Campaign and enjoyed an outpouring of community generosity and engagement in our critical work with children and families. The campaign included raising funds to support much-needed renovations at our 29th Street campus. I'm pleased to report work is scheduled to begin this spring on improvements that will greatly enhance the nurturing and stimulating learning environments for our students. You can read more about the campaign inside.

I am also pleased to report our community partnerships are thriving at Next Door.

- The Next Step Clinic held its opening celebration at Next Door January 8, 2020. A coalition of community partners is behind this effort to provide mental health and developmental services for underserved Milwaukee children and families. You can read more inside.
- We're participating in the state's new Early Childhood Teacher Apprenticeship Program. Two Next Door Assistant Teachers

enrolled in the program and will spend two years taking classes at Milwaukee Area Technical College while serving in an apprentice role at Next Door. They will ultimately earn an Early Childhood Technical Diploma helping them advance their careers at Next Door.

- We're gaining more support from the Milwaukee Bucks – specifically players Brook and Robin Lopez. In a project dubbed "Blocks for Books," the brothers donate \$100 to our Books for Kids program for every block they make during a game this season. Brook and Robin are also contributing funds for our Books for Kids library renovations this year at our 29th Street campus.

These community partners allow us to build an even stronger Next Door experience for our children, families and staff. We're thankful to have them on the Next Door team getting our students ready for school.

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President

WTMJ4, Scholastic Books partner to support Next Door



Next Door celebrated National Reading Day in January with a special book fair experience for our students. The program came from the E.W. Scripps Company and its Milwaukee affiliate WTMJ, and Scholastic Books. The children were able to walk through the fair and select a free book to take home. Overall, more than 1,000 new books were distributed to Next Door children to help build their home libraries.



In addition, WTMJ employees spent time reading with Next Door students in the library. Children also had a chance to hang out with Clifford the Big Red Dog! We thank Scripps, WTMJ and Scholastic Books for their time, service and generosity, and for creating such an engaging and valuable literacy opportunity for Next Door students.

Next Door's 50th Anniversary



In 2019, Next Door celebrated 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. Below is a look at our campaign results and some additional programming highlights.

Campaign by the Numbers

\$7.1M

Total gifts (to date) towards Next Door's 50th Anniversary Campaign for early childhood educational programs and the renovation of our 29th Street campus

981

Total donors (to date) towards Next Door's 50th Anniversary Campaign for early childhood educational programs and the renovation of our 29th Street campus

1,576

Community members engaged during the 11 events hosted throughout the year

135

Special visitors from community partners including the Milwaukee Bucks, Boswell Books, UWM Athletics, Scripps WTMJ4, PNC Bank's "Grow Up Great" Planetarium, Executive Women International, Milwaukee Ballet, and more

92,307

Books donated through community book drives

13,721

Volunteer hours of time donated by community members

50

Stories shared from 50 years of history

28

Media coverage from CBS58, FOX6, WISN12, WTMJ4, BizTimes Media, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Urban Milwaukee, 103.7 KISSFM, Wisconsin Public Radio, Milwaukee PBS Black Nouveau, and a feature story about a Next Door teacher used in Comic Relief USA's Red Nose Day national campaign



No Small Matter

To help raise awareness of the importance of our work in early childhood education, we hosted seven screenings and discussions of the documentary *No Small Matter*. One of them pictured here included representatives from the Wisconsin Legislative Black Caucus and Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on November 22, 2019.

No Small Matter highlights the significant period of brain development during a child's first five years of life and how important it is for our country to invest in high quality early childhood education for all children. To learn more about the film, visit www.nosmallmatter.com.



Staff Celebrations

Throughout the 50th Anniversary year, we offered multiple opportunities for our staff to celebrate. We concluded those events on December 20, 2019, when our team of 260-plus employees gathered at the Italian Community Center for a holiday breakfast.

The program included two guest speakers – Next Door Alumnus JohnQuell Tucker and Milwaukee artist and writer Dasha Kelly Hamilton. We also recognized Next Door employees with ten or more years of service to the organization (pictured here) and had some fun with an Ugly Sweater fashion show!



Next Step Clinic opens at Next Door

Addressing the gap in mental health and developmental services for Milwaukee families

A new clinic operating at Next Door, as part of an extensive community partnership, has become an extremely welcome resource for the families being served.

"I think for a lot of families, it's a relief. They are so excited for someone to finally listen to them," said Dr. Amy Van Hecke, an associate professor of psychology at Marquette University and co-executive director of the Next Step Clinic.

The Next Step Clinic aims to address mental health and developmental needs of underserved Milwaukee children and families, who often face barriers like long waiting lists and trips to the suburbs for assistance.

"We had just heard so many challenges that families were having, and especially families of color who were just falling through the cracks," said Leah Jepson, co-executive director of the Next Step Clinic representing Mental Health America of Wisconsin.

The clinic held its opening celebration



January 8, 2020, with a program, ribbon cutting and tours.

Pictured here from that day (top right) are representatives from the coalition of community partners behind the clinic:

Johnson Controls, Marquette University, Medical College of Wisconsin, Mental Health America of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Miracle Network, Next Door, United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County, and Wisconsin General Baptist State Convention.

The clinic came about through the \$250,000 President's Challenge grant from Marquette University and the Johnson Controls Foundation. Next Door joined the coalition by offering a vacant clinic space at its 29th Street campus.

Clinic staff include two family navigators who



work closely with parents to understand their child's challenges and provide resources to help overcome them. The resources include assessments for the medical diagnosis of autism, which are conducted by licensed clinical psychologists and Marquette University graduate students in psychology.

The graduate students are supervised by Marquette faculty and Director of Clinical Services for the Next Step Clinic and licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Amy Leventhal. The clinic recruited students as part of a needed effort to build more practitioners in this field.

Later this year, the clinic plans to roll out Parent-Child Interaction Therapy with on-the-spot coaching for parents interacting with children six and under. Addressing parent mental health needs is planned as well.

"If they're struggling with depression, anxiety, unmitigated trauma or chronic toxic stress, we can screen for that and refer them to services and really help have that holistic package for the family," Jepson said.

Jepson and Van Hecke say their work at the Next Step Clinic is having a tremendous impact on them personally and professionally. They've discovered some of the old ways of

doing things don't work in a clinic like this, and are excited about the positive changes they can bring to their field.

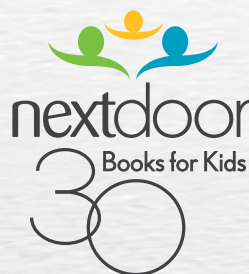
"The more time I can be over here, the better. This is the highlight of my week," Dr. Van Hecke said.



Books for Kids turns 30 in 2020!

Since 1990, Books for Kids has distributed nearly 2 million books to help children in Milwaukee build home libraries.

**Save the Date:
April 22, 2020
Community Read with Me.**





Next Door Foundation
2545 N. 29th Street
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Thanks to our Holiday Gift Giving Donors!



Leading Next Door's Jovana Carolina, Gift Giving Mackyazi, and individual families organizing projects is the K4 class committee is one of seven Next Door Next Door's is a family and a pregnant child. The latter is a baby, offering the holiday season. Portia and her career in Next Door while helping children get ready for school gifts for her three boys, including a bicycle!