

Our First 50 Years of Serving the Community



Here's To Our First 50 Years!

Dear Friends,

We write this letter with a tremendous amount of gratitude and pride for such a special and heartwarming 50th Anniversary year for Next Door!

The year was packed with memorable events and reunions, engaging community partnerships, inspiring storytelling of our past and present, and generous giving to help Next Door thrive. We can't express enough how grateful we are to the individuals, organizations and companies who contributed their time and financial gifts to our 50th Anniversary Campaign and helped us celebrate 50 years of serving the community.

We wish to offer a special thank you to a devoted group of parishioners and clergy from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. In the late 1960s, these individuals expanded the church's community outreach to do more to address needs in their own neighborhood.

They worked passionately to create their vision for an expanded youth and young adult outreach ministry in a church parsonage located right next door to Our Savior's – thus our name, Next Door. As Next Door, they provided many services over the years including a safe haven for teens, a drug and alcohol treatment program, low-income apartments and early childhood education opportunities for young families.

Next Door operated next to Our Savior's Lutheran Church for 22 years before moving to our 29th Street campus, cementing our focus on early childhood education. Today, we serve more than 1,400 children through two center-based locations, a home visitation program and 11 partnership sites.

During our 50th Anniversary Campaign, we had the chance to include and recognize many Next Door pioneers and enjoyed having them with us to enrich the milestone year.

In this 50th Anniversary commemorative book, you'll learn more about the early days of Next Door and our evolution into the leader in high quality early childhood education in Milwaukee today.

We hope you enjoy this closer look at the first 50 years of Next Door serving the community.



Bob VanHimbergen, CPA
Board Chair



Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
President





Our Mission:

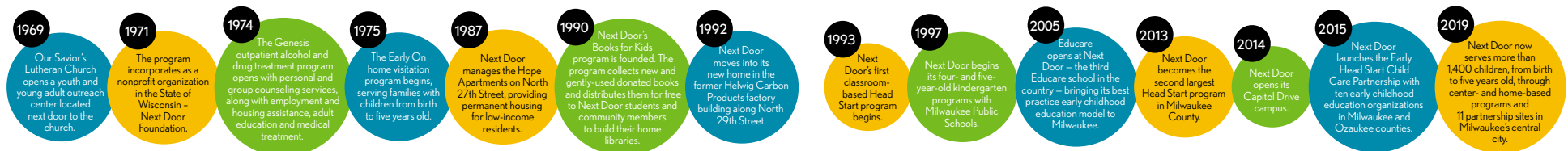
Next Door supports the intellectual, physical and emotional development of children by partnering with their families for success in school and the community.

Our Vision:

Next Door's vision is to position neighborhood children and families for long-term success.

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Fulfilling a Vision

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 outreach ministry to better serve the neighborhood.

"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," said Rev. Glenn Nycklemoe, pictured above.

Rev. Nycklemoe served alongside Rev. Charles Berdahl and Rev. Louis Accola. They worked with parishioners and lay leaders to expand the outreach program to a church parsonage located next door to Our Savior's. The parsonage had been a family residence for Rev. Berdahl but he and the other pastors felt that wasn't the best use of the home. "It seemed to be a natural atmosphere for a youth and young adult ministry," Rev. Berdahl recalled.

With full support from the church council, the new outreach center opened in 1969 with the name "Next Door" because of its proximity to the church. Programming began with a drop-in center for teens and young adults to gather for fellowship in a safe, fun and welcoming environment. "Next Door was for everyone — that's how we approached the work," Rev. Berdahl said.

The pastors said word of mouth spread quickly in the neighborhood about Next Door and they started seeing lots of new faces come through the doors. The influx led to hiring lay staff to run Next Door with an expanding slate of social services. The pastors plugged in wherever needed.

"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 continued at Our Savior's Lutheran Church for 22 years before a move to the central city and a focus on early childhood education. The church parsonage Next Door occupied later became the Brumder Mansion Bed & Breakfast.

Next Door relocated following a building donation from Helwig Carbon Products, Inc. — a longtime Next Door supporter. The site along 29th Street was a former Helwig Carbon factory building that allowed Next Door to grow into a leader in high quality early childhood education.

When asked about the Next Door of today, the pastors 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.



The Birth of Next Door

by Donna Ilene Randall Gordon

Donna and her husband Royal Gordon were active members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in the 1960s and were closely involved in the founding of Next Door. Below are excerpts from a letter written by Donna about the need to expand the church's youth outreach program into what became Next Door. It was published in a report celebrating Next Door's 20th Anniversary in 1989.



This was an active organization and the youth needed a place to call their own.

What shall this place be called? High League held a contest and the winning name was Next Door since it was next door to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, the original sponsor.

We were volunteer youth advisors who both worked and there needed to be a full-time staff person to coordinate the many activities that could be provided. We had no idea what these would become but there was a space available and a need to be met.

Royal would have been greatly pleased to know that Next Door's 20th Anniversary celebration coincides with our 50th wedding anniversary. He missed both by less than eight months but he is surely rejoicing with us in the fruits of our early labors, a project of hope and fulfillment.

Becoming Next Door



Next Door took off as a youth and young adult outreach program in 1969 in a parsonage building located next door to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. In order to handle a wide variety of neighborhood needs, Next Door needed additional funding and staff and an ability to go beyond the church community for support.

To move the organization forward, church leadership decided to incorporate as a non-profit organization under the official name, Next Door Foundation. A key player supporting that process was a parishioner at Our Savior's Lutheran Church named Donald Mundt, pictured in the top left photo.

At the time, Donald was an executive with Northwestern Mutual. He recruited four lawyers – John Bremer, Peter Bruce, Jim Ericson and Fred Sweet – in the company's legal division to draft the incorporation and tax exemption papers for Next Door as part of a pro-bono project.

As part of their work, they spent time getting acquainted with Next Door and its people – including former Our Savior's Rev. Charles Berdahl and past church lay leaders George Aker and John Dewey, pictured above signing the incorporation papers.

Peter recalled the scene from the first board meeting following the incorporation where "everybody involved was able to be seated around one table at the Old Town Serbian Gourmet House in Milwaukee. This was really small and very grass-roots."

"I felt they were proud of the youth program they had established and were proud that they were spinning it off and that it was going to have broader reach," Peter added.

Throughout Next Door's 50 years, Northwestern Mutual has always had a company representative on Next Door's Board of Directors, including Peter, Jim and John. Peter became Board Chair in the 1980s and never stopped giving back to Next Door.

"I've just felt that Next Door has made a quality difference in our community – and the fact that the services are to an underrepresented portion of our community is important to me and my wife Joan in our giving," Peter said.

Donald passed away in 2017. Before his death, he shared the following statement with Next Door:

"I am proud to have been a part of the founding of the Next Door Foundation by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in 1969. Over the years, thousands of children have benefitted from Next Door's educational and recreational programs."

Byron Tweeten: Next Door's First Executive Director (1969-1975)

Byron Tweeten was 22 and fresh out of college when he joined Our Savior's Lutheran Church to serve as a youth choir director in 1969. It wasn't long after that when church leaders tapped Byron to lead the church's expanding

youth and young adult outreach program that eventually became Next Door.

"There would not be a Next Door today if it weren't for Byron Tweeten," said Rev. Glenn Nycklemoe, a former Our Savior's pastor who worked with Byron. "To think of that young guy and all of that moxie he had – he was the right person at the right place and the right time."

Former colleagues said Byron was known for his inclusionary approach, his natural ability to motivate his staff and volunteers around a project, and his personal and sensitive way of connecting with the neighborhood participants coming to Next Door. Byron spent six years working at Next Door. He is pictured in the top right after joining the organization in 1969, and far left in a 2005 photo at Next Door.



A Tribute to Northwestern Mutual

As Next Door celebrates its first 50 years of service to the community, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our key partners that have gone above and beyond to ensure Next Door's success and impact. Our gratitude to Northwestern Mutual for their loyal support!

- Employees led the effort to incorporate Next Door as a nonprofit
- 50 years of company leadership on Next Door's Board of Directors
- Embedded Next Door in its philanthropic culture for 50 years
- More than \$1.7 million in corporate, foundation and employee giving

"Our relationship with Next Door goes back to the beginning, and their work helps build a better tomorrow. We're inspired by the impact they are creating to improve the lives of our residents and ultimately Milwaukee."

Eric Christophersen
President, Northwestern Mutual Foundation



1970s and 1980s



The 1970s and 1980s were a period of growth at Next Door, marked by a wide offering of services responding to neighborhood needs. Next Door provided a place of peace, comfort and positive engagement helping improve lives and build bright futures. The services included:

- **Adult Basic Education:** A volunteer tutor program that offered adult learners assistance in preparing for the GED and learning basic work/life skills.
- **Children and Youth Programs:** An after-school drop-in center, homework help, art and music classes, and recreational events.
- **Cornerstone Learning Center/New Frontiers:** An alternative high school with programming that included a youth employment and career development initiative.
- **Early On Home Start:** A home visitation program that provided early childhood education and helped parents build a strong home life.
- **Genesis:** An outpatient drug and alcohol treatment program that provided individual, group and family counseling. Additional assistance included areas of employment, education, housing and healthcare.
- **Hope Apartments:** Four apartment buildings located near 27th and State that Next Door received as a donation. Churches and businesses were recruited to adopt apartments to fix up as rentals.
- **Milwaukee Urban Semester:** An urban study program for students from St. Olaf College and Carthage College that offered field work and seminars.



Pepi Randolph: Next Door Alumnus

Pepi Randolph was ten years old when some neighborhood friends on the near west side of Milwaukee told him about a place they hung out at after school called Next Door.

It was the early 1970s and Next Door was located at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. It quickly became a place Pepi embraced with fondness.



"I remember it was like somebody was welcoming you into their home," he said.

For three years Pepi, along with his brother and sister, spent a few hours at Next Door as part of an after school program. He said Next Door was a safe and enriching place to get off the streets, make new friends and enjoy activities like board games and reading.

Pepi also recalled a diverse group of people attending Next Door – Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans, Jews and Germans.

"It didn't matter where you came from. Next Door instilled a sense of oneness – you saw everybody the same," he said.

Pepi said that sense of togetherness and respect for each other were strong values that stayed with him long after his three years at Next Door.

Pepi earned a scholarship to attend high school at the University School of Milwaukee. He went to college at University of Wisconsin-Madison on a baseball scholarship and majored in history and journalism.

After college, Pepi spent five years working in sales for Proctor & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson.

Law school came next at UW-Madison followed by several high profile positions as Assistant General Counsel for the Milwaukee Brewers, Assistant Vice President in the investment division of M&I Bank, and President of Forward Wisconsin – the state's economic development team under former Governor Jim Doyle.



Today, Pepi serves as Vice President of Business Development for Greenfire Management, part of the Potawatomi Business Development Corporation.

It was through his current role that Pepi reconnected with Next Door in 2019. He joined colleagues to deliver a load of books his office collected to support Next Door's Books for Kids program.

While Next Door has moved since Pepi's early days with the organization, he still loved being back at a place that he says was so formative and beneficial to his long-term success.

"I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Next Door for giving me so much. I feel really lucky that I had that opportunity," he said.



Rev. Ed Ruen: Next Door Executive Director (1978-1993)

A new post as pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church brought Rev. Ed Ruen from New York City to Milwaukee in 1975. He served as pastor of the church for a few years and then took on the role of Executive Director of Next Door for 15 years.

"Next Door offered me an opportunity to live out my passion for the city, especially the children and youth who needed our support and love," Ed said.

During Ed's tenure at Next Door, one of his biggest efforts was cultivating a strong donor base that could support Next Door for years to come.



"We set up a Development program modeled on a much larger institution," Ed said. "It included public relations, planned giving, corporate giving, church giving, individual giving, and consulting from Byron Tweeten."

Ed recalls working closely with Next Door's Mary Conlon in building strong and lasting relationships with major Milwaukee corporations and foundations like Wisconsin Electric Power, Badger Meter, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Johnson Controls and the Walter Schroeder Foundation.

Ed also helped build Next Door programming over his 15 years into a settlement house-style of neighborhood resources.

He oversaw many programs including an alternative high school called Cornerstone Learning Center, an outpatient alcohol and drug treatment program called Genesis, and a low income housing program called Hope Apartments.

Ed was a big proponent of the Early On Home Start program offering early childhood education and parenting skills for families through home visits. "That was just a unique, very satisfying program and a wonderful group of people and staff that were doing it," Ed said.

Near the end of Ed's tenure, he led Next Door through a major step forward with a move to the central city and the 29th building donated by Helwig Carbon Products. Mary said this was a time of "strong and decisive leadership" from Ed because the relocation was a significant leap of faith for Next Door.

Looking back on this historic move and his 15-year journey with Next Door, Ed is most appreciative of the dedicated staff, board directors and volunteers who supported him along the way.

"We were a family in mission in the city and thankful for the opportunity to serve the children, youth and families of Milwaukee," Ed said.



A New Home for Next Door

An opportunity for a new chapter for Next Door arrived in the late 1980s from a Milwaukee-based family company named Helwig Carbon Products.

The Helwig family had grown fond of Next Door through its involvement with the Siebert Lutheran Foundation, which supported Next Door since its beginnings.

When the company's founders – Walter and Adela Helwig – passed away, the family decided to satisfy a charitable stipulation in the couple's estate by donating its factory building on 29th Street to Next Door and relocate to a more efficient facility. Leading the plan to carry this out was John Koenitzer, pictured above, the son-in-law of Walter and Adela, and company president at the time.

"My father very much understood the needs of the neighborhood, and he knew that if Helwig Carbon moved out, it would take away something from that community. To fill the void with something beneficial like Next Door was part of his vision," said Jeff Koenitzer, John's oldest son and current chairman of Helwig Carbon Products.

Next Door named its new site the "Helwig Family Community Center." The company continued supporting Next Door during the building transition and remains a loyal donor today with both family and company contributions.

"My father would be very proud today to see what has developed at Next Door and to know that he played a significant role in helping that get started," Jeff said.



A Tribute to Helwig Carbon

As Next Door celebrates its first 50 years of service to the community, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our key partners that have gone above and beyond to ensure Next Door's success and impact. Our gratitude to Helwig Carbon Products and the Koenitzer family for their loyal support!

- Four generations of family support
- Donated the Helwig Carbon factory on 29th Street to Next Door
- 29th Street building helped Next Door grow into a leader in early childhood education
- More than \$1 million in corporate, family and employee giving

"Our family and company employees have championed for Next Door for more than three decades. We admire Next Door greatly because it's providing valuable, educational opportunities for children in Milwaukee who may otherwise not get them."

Jeff Koentizer
Chairman, Helwig Carbon Products



Mary Conlon: Next Door's Longest-Serving Employee

A fixture at Next Door for more than four decades, Mary Conlon left an impressive mark on the organization dating back to its first early childhood education program.

Mary joined Next Door in 1971 as part of the national VISTA volunteer program established by President John F. Kennedy.



For her year of service, Mary embarked on a project to create a home visitation program supporting neighborhood families with early childhood education. It was called Early On Home Start.

"I rode my bike around and visited families once a week," Mary recalled. "I made a lot of games and took them into the homes to share with the children."

Mary's volunteer year of service proved so inspiring, she later joined Next Door full-time managing the Early On Home Start program.

In 1982, Mary took on a new role in Next Door's Development department. She dedicated the rest of her professional career to fundraising for Next Door and retired as a Major Gifts Officer in 2017.

"I appreciated the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than I could contribute to, and I think that a lot of our donors feel that way, too," Mary said.

Mary produced many close relationships with both corporate and individual donors that remain strong today.

She was known for working tirelessly to create special experiences connecting donors with Next Door children. Those experiences included classroom visits for arts and crafts together and thank you cards to donors with drawings from the children.

Over her four decades of service, Mary saw Next Door experience major milestones and significant growth. While she has many fond memories, one of the dearest is the people she worked with to impact so many children and families in the community.

"Next Door is a woven tapestry strengthened and enriched by the talents, love and generosity of many. I am happy to have played a part with so many different people in building strong Milwaukee families," Mary said.



A New Chapter



The 1990s brought significant changes to Next Door impacting the organization's location, service area and programming.

Former Board Director Lana Wiese – who served as Acting Board Chair in the early 1990s – said Next Door had reached a point where it was time to branch out from Our Savior's Lutheran Church and find an independent home to operate more effectively.

When a new location emerged with the donation of the Helwig Carbon factory building on 29th Street, Lana says making a move there was appealing because of the neighborhood need but renovating the building presented an enormous challenge.

"It was a huge undertaking for us considering what we were at the time, which was a small non-profit. We really hadn't had to raise significant capital dollars to renovate a building before, so that was new to us," Lana recalled.

With encouragement from Next Door's Executive Director Ed Ruen, Lana said the Board of Directors decided to take a leap of faith and start a new chapter for Next Door at 29th Street.

The agency launched a \$3.8 million capital campaign to renovate the former factory building. While a mammoth task, Lana said Next Door succeeded thanks to solid planning, community support from companies like Master Lock, Harley-Davidson and Northwestern Mutual and a critical grant from the Kresge Foundation, which awarded Next Door the remaining dollars needed for the campaign once it reached a certain benchmark.

The renovation of the 60,000 square-foot building brought a vibrant and supportive learning environment to Next Door with early childhood classrooms, an adult education center, a family health clinic and more.

By 1995, Next Door operated 16 center- and home-based programs for children from birth to 19 years old. Lana said a strategic planning update led by the Board of Directors pushed Next Door to reevaluate its expansive slate of programs. The result was another big change for Next Door – focusing exclusively on early childhood education.

"That is what Next Door was really good at and the need was there in the neighborhood," Wiese said. "In the long-run, it was good for Next Door because its mission became clearer."



Lilly Carter: 26 Years as a Next Door Teacher

In her 26 years working at Next Door, Lilly Carter has touched so many lives.

"I really want to say almost a thousand children," Lilly estimates.

It's an impressive achievement from Next Door's longest-serving teacher today.

"I like the work because it keeps you going. The kids have so much energy and that flows over to me and keeps me energized," Lilly said.

Lilly came to Next Door in August of 1993 because she wanted to work in Head Start programming. She discovered early on that Next Door was a special place.

"It just felt so cozy and nurturing. I was like 'Wow, I never felt this before,'" Lilly said.

Lilly's first job at Next Door was a Parent Educator in Next Door's home-based program. She worked with 13 families a week and enjoyed the special relationships she formed with parents.

"I loved the home-based program because you really have the opportunity to see a different picture. You get a chance to develop a really good relationship with that mom because now you're in her space and she's more comfortable," Lilly said.

Lilly spent four years in the home-based program before transitioning to the classroom and teaching K5 students. She spent 20 years teaching at Next Door's 29th Street location before moving to the Capitol Drive building when it opened in 2014.



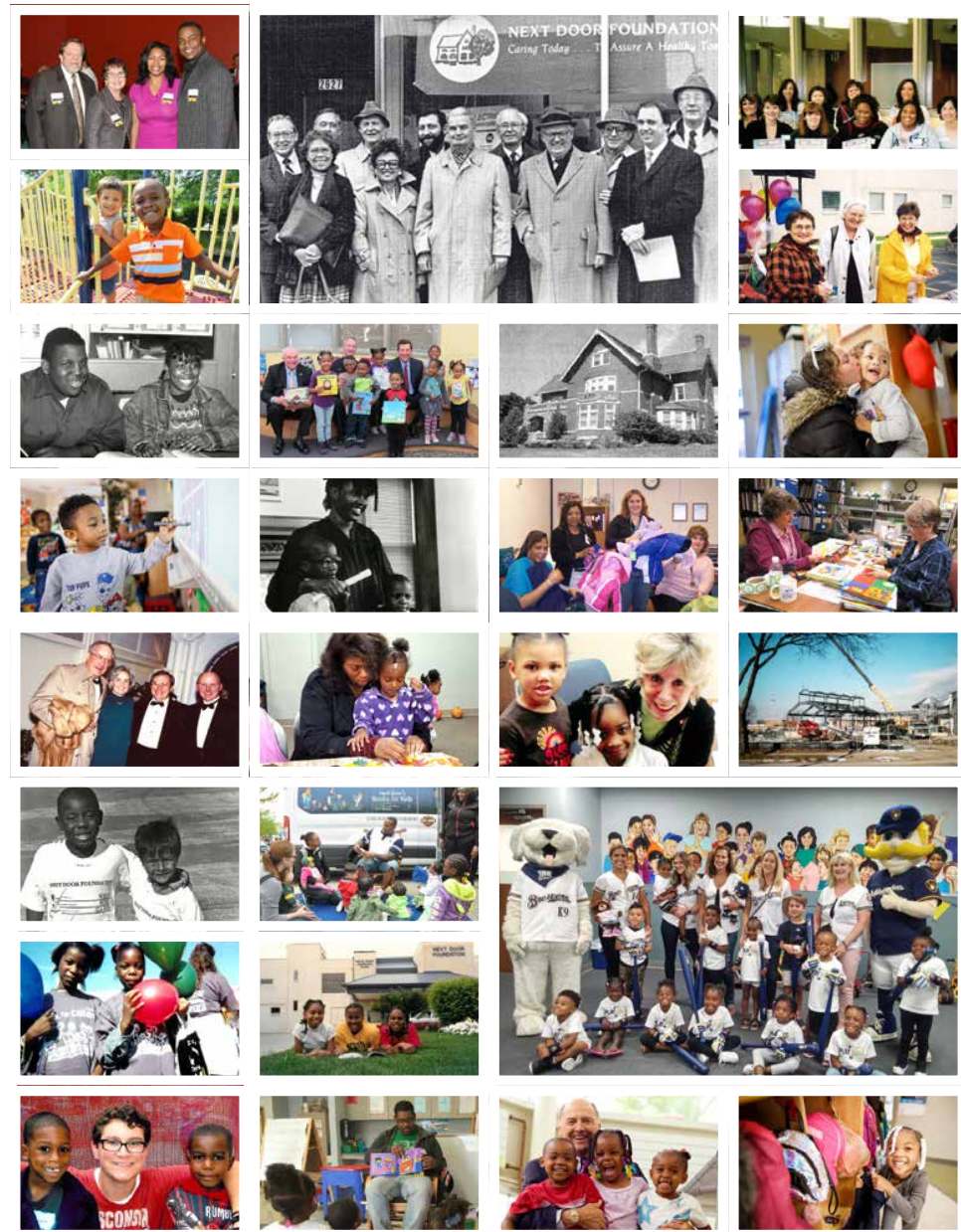
Today, Lilly leads a class of 17 three-year-old children and continues to be inspired by their energy and progress.

"When you start off with the children in September and then you see where they are in January and then in June, you see the growth and it's like 'Wow, I made a difference,' so that's the beauty of it for me," she said.

Over her 26-year tenure, Lilly says she worked with many mentors at Next Door who helped her grow as well, both professionally and as a mother to three daughters.

As a veteran teacher today, Lilly feels it's now important for her to mentor the younger staff launching their careers at an organization Lilly expects will thrive for years to come.

"One of the great things about working here at Next Door is you never know what's going to come next. The Board of Directors has an awesome vision and it never stops. Once we're successful and we have great outcomes, then it's like 'OK, now we can move on to something different.' I truly believe Next Door will make it to 100," Lilly said.



Walk for Children

The Walk for Children has always been Next Door's largest community event of the year. **It started in 1989 at Marquette University High School** when Next Door was still located on Wisconsin Avenue next to Our Savior's Lutheran Church on the near west side of Milwaukee.

The Walk later moved with Next Door in the 1990s as the agency made the transition to the 29th Street building. Later on, Next Door would host the Walk at its Capitol Drive campus as well.

Year after year, this energetic event brings together Next Door children, families and staff plus neighbors, community leaders and individual and corporate supporters. **Everyone gathers for a parade-style walk through the neighborhood led by a celebrity Walk Leader followed by a block party with food, music and family-friendly activities.**

One constant at the Walk for Children over the years is the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. The company has been the **Presenting Sponsor of the Walk since it started in 1989.** Harley-Davidson employees also help plan the Walk and organize internal fundraisers such as ice cream socials, penny wars and company merchandise grab bags to support the event. In 2019, Harley-Davidson marked a major giving milestone surpassing \$1 million in employee support for Next Door.



A Tribute to Harley-Davidson Motor Company

As Next Door celebrates its first 50 years of service to the community, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our key partners that have gone above and beyond to ensure Next Door's success and impact. Our gratitude to Harley-Davidson Motor Company for their loyal support!

- 30 years as Presenting Sponsor for the Walk for Children
- 30+ years of company leadership on Next Door's Board of Directors
- Tens of thousands of employee volunteer hours
- More than \$1 million in corporate, foundation and employee giving

"Harley-Davidson is proud to support the Next Door Foundation and the great work being done to enable early student success in the neighborhoods where we live, work, play and ride. Reading is fundamental to lifelong learning and we want all young people to have access to great stories and adventures as they go through life."

Julie Anding
President, Harley-Davidson Foundation



Books For Kids

Books for Kids was founded in 1990 by long-time Next Door supporter, Mary Kellner. She saw a need in the community from teachers wanting more books for their students and reached out to partner with Next Door.

"I called my friend Ed Ruen, who was the head of Next Door and asked, 'Could you house these books if I bring them to you?' and he agreed, and that's how Books for Kids really started out," said Mary, pictured in the middle of the top photo taken by the Milwaukee Sentinel as part of a story about Books for Kids in 1991.

Mary started collecting books for teachers through book drives at her children's school and recruited friends to support the program as the boxes of books came into Next Door.

"They would all help sort the books there," said Mary, pictured with volunteers in the second photo from the top.

As the years went on, Books for Kids gained more community support with book drives from area school districts, banks, businesses, Summerfest, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and even the US Postal Service.

An advisory committee formed to oversee Books for Kids with representation from companies like Marcus Corporation and The Milwaukee Journal. Next Door eventually hired a full-time coordinator to run Books for Kids.

Over the past 30 years, the program expanded to include a Books for Kids Library at both Next Door sites where students spend time reading with volunteers and then select a free book to help build their home library. Volunteers also clean and repair the donated books.

In 2016 – thanks to a contribution from Harley-Davidson Motor Company – Next Door rolled out the Books for Kids Mobile Library to give out free books to children at Next Door partner sites and at community events.

Mary says she never imagined the program would become so expansive. "I feel really good about the Books for Kids program today," Mary says.

"Books are extremely important to our kids, especially our young children, and the research has shown that the earlier our children can read and be exposed to books the better their literacy will be."



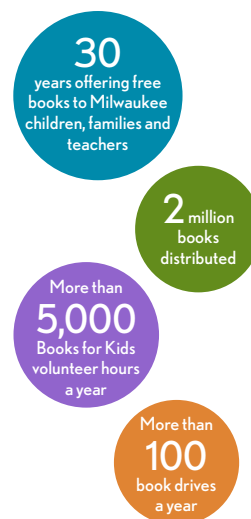
Books for Kids 25th Anniversary

In October 2015, Next Door celebrated 25 years of Books for Kids with a special anniversary celebration at the Milwaukee Art Museum. The event honored Books for Kids Founder Mary Kellner, pictured right, and long-time corporate supporter, Harley-Davidson Motor Company (pictured left is Tchernavia Rocker, former Harley-Davidson Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer and Next Door Board Director). The event raised nearly \$160,000 to support the program.



Books for Kids Today

Every year, thousands of volunteers support our Books for Kids program in several ways. They include holding book drives, reading to our students in the library, cleaning and repairing the donated books we receive from the community, and helping distribute books on our Books for Kids Mobile Library.



Securing Next Door's Future

Sue and Dick Pieper have supported Next Door for about as long as the organization has been around.

"It's terrific. It's one of the winners in Milwaukee," Sue said.

One of the couple's most significant contributions - through the Pieper Family Foundation - led to the creation of an endowment fund for Next Door in 2003.

The foundation presented Next Door - and ten other nonprofit organizations - with the Pieper Challenge Grant and Match Program to establish an endowment fund to help secure their long-term future.

"I am a big believer of endowments and long-range planning and I want to see all of these nonprofits survive long-term," Dick said.

Next Door accepted this challenge and launched a successful fundraising campaign to raise the more than \$100,000 required for the match.

Today, Next Door's endowment fund has experienced the highest five-year average return of all ten grantees supported through the Pieper Challenge Grant and Match Program.

The endowment fund is overseen by Next Door's Endowment Committee, which established a policy to reinvest income in this fund. In addition, all bequest and memorial gifts are added to the endowment fund - unless otherwise designated by the donor.

The endowment investment not only enhances the financial stability of Next Door but offers donors an opportunity to perpetuate their values and priorities long into the future.

While they have made significant financial gifts to Next Door over the years, Sue and Dick have also donated their time and service to Next Door.

Sue was a volunteer tutor for high school students served by Next Door in its early years and is pictured above with a former student. She later spent a year as a volunteer in one of Next Door's early childhood classrooms and continues to volunteer reading to children in the Books for Kids program. Sue and Dick have also supported the Walk for Children and have been strong ambassadors for Next Door in the community.

Sue and Dick feel it's important to give back when you've received so many blessings in life. While Next Door has evolved over the years, they couldn't be happier to see the organization where it is today.

"I think the emphasis on early childhood education is the way to go, and then adding all these medical and parenting services and everything that goes with that - you can't beat that philosophy," Sue said.



Bringing the Nation's Best Practices to Next Door



Touted as the nation's best practice model for early childhood education, Educare came to Milwaukee through connections between long-time Next Door leaders and the Buffett family.

In the late 1990s, Next Door began working with a representative of Susie Buffett, who was leading the family's efforts through the Buffett Early Childhood Fund to create a new network of Educare schools nationwide. The model featured a high-quality early childhood education experience for children living in poverty with highly-credentialed teaching staff, small class sizes and a heavy focus on parent engagement.

Peter Buffett, pictured in the third photo, and his wife Jennifer were living in Milwaukee at the time and played a key role in the \$8.7 million capital campaign to bring Educare to Next Door. Former Next Door Board Directors Mary Kellner and Chris Bauer co-chaired the campaign committee.

"Peter and Jennifer were the cornerstone of the campaign. They provided anchor funding and backed us 100% in what we were trying to do," Chris said.

Educare Milwaukee opened in 2005 as the third Educare school in the country serving 156 students from birth to five years old. As part of the program, Next Door selected University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to serve as the Local Evaluation Partner to track student progress and the effectiveness of Educare programming.

A 2017 national research study – which included Educare Milwaukee students – found that after just one year of enrollment Educare students demonstrated stronger language skills, exhibited less challenging behaviors, and developed more positive parent-child interactions than children who did not attend Educare.

"Educare was a gem, it was a major step forward for Next Door and a culmination of the direction we were trying to go to with early childhood education," Chris said.



Educare 10th Anniversary Celebration

In November 2016, Next Door celebrated ten years of Educare Milwaukee with a special anniversary program at the Milwaukee Art Museum. The event honored the Buffett Family and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund for their ongoing advocacy and generosity for Educare Milwaukee.

The celebration also showcased Educare family Delvyn Crawford, his wife and two boys, pictured left below. The event – chaired by Mary Kellner and Bill Nasgovitz, pictured right below – raised more than \$240,000 to support Educare's high quality early childhood programming at Next Door.



A Tribute to the Buffett Early Childhood Fund

As Next Door celebrates its first 50 years of service to the community, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our key partners that have gone above and beyond to ensure Next Door's success and impact. Our gratitude to the Buffett Early Childhood Fund for its loyal support!

- Selected Next Door as the third Educare school in the country
- Helped create a best practices model of early childhood education
- Provided anchor funding for Educare Milwaukee at Next Door
- More than \$8 million through foundation and family giving

"What was so exciting for us, and I think for everyone that was there in the beginning, is that Educare works. It's working for kids, it's working for families, and it's working for the community. It's something that we can all be very proud of and know is important to sustain for the sake of all of us really."

Peter Buffett
President, NoVo Foundation



JohnQuell Tucker: Next Door Alumnus

JohnQuell Tucker is a Next Door alumnus from the 1990s. He still remembers two important fixtures from the place he started his education.

"The sandbox and the water table," he recalled.

JohnQuell also remembers his teachers – Ms. Frankie and Ms. Jennifer – reading stories and going over numbers in class during the two years he spent at Next Door from 1995 to 1997.

"It definitely was a positive and happy place," JohnQuell said.

Next Door has stayed close to JohnQuell and his family.

His mother, Debra Tucker, came to work at Next Door in 2004 and continues teaching here today. She is pictured below with one of her former classrooms during a holiday program.

JohnQuell maintains professional ties to Next Door as a local social worker.

"I'm definitely pro-early childhood education and I recommend it to families I work with now," he said.

JohnQuell is a child welfare social worker for SaintA in Milwaukee. He works with children in foster care to ensure they have the resources they need to succeed in life. JohnQuell also works with parents who have been separated from their children and strives to achieve family reunification.

"I've had numerous kids that have been placed back home and safely reunited with their parents or relatives," he said.

JohnQuell's social work background also includes experience with adults battling mental illness and helping them build independent living skills.

His passion to work in this field came late in his college career at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where he earned a full-ride academic scholarship. He went from an architecture major to psychology to secure what he felt would be a more fulfilling career.

"For me, instead of being the architect of buildings, I wanted to be the architect of individuals – helping people build solid foundations for the rest of their lives," he said.

JohnQuell couples his drive to make a personal impact on people in need with an ambitious outlook on life that is bound to bring more success for this Next Door alumnus down the road.

"They say the sky is the limit. I say the sky is the minimum. Why set limits for yourself when the heights of success are infinite? Reach for infinite heights," he said.



Ula Russell: Two Decades of Teaching

As Next Door marked 50 years serving the community in 2019, Ula Russell marked an impressive milestone of her own – two decades serving Next Door as a classroom teacher.

"I love the atmosphere here, the teachers, definitely the kids and having something different every year," Ula said.

Ula is one of the longest-serving teachers at Next Door today. She started in February 1999 and embraced what she called "a real family-oriented" environment among the teachers and staff at the 29th Street building.

Ula spent 15 years teaching in K3 and K4 classrooms at 29th Street.

In 2014, Next Door expanded with the opening of its Capitol Drive campus and Ula transferred to that site. She remembers early on how impactful the expansion was.

"The community needed it. It helped with a lot of parents who had no idea about daycare or preschool, so when we came along they started understanding how important it is for their kids to get their first education in," Ula said.

At Next Door's Capitol Drive campus, Ula continued working in three- and four-year-old classrooms. She likes that age group because the children aren't quite set in their ways yet and are easier to mold.

Ula also likes observing the children when they play amongst themselves in different learning areas of the classroom.

"They bring out their own characters when they're in the areas, and sometimes they imitate us as teachers so we get to see what they picked up on and what they didn't pick up on," Ula said.

Over her tenure at Next Door, Ula says there has always been something new to learn each year to further her professional growth. She feels the support network at Next Door is rock solid.

"It's just being able to depend on each other here – and not just with the teachers, but all the staff, the managers, even the custodian workers," Ula said.

Looking ahead, Ula is quick to say she'll be sticking around Next Door to finish out her early childhood career.

"I'm not going anywhere – they will have to carry me up out of here! I'll be at Next Door until I retire," Ula said.



Major Expansion Triples Enrollment

A federal reassessment of Head Start programming in Milwaukee led to an unprecedented phase of expansion for Next Door.

In 2013, the Office of Head Start awarded Next Door a grant making Next Door one of the largest Head Start providers in Milwaukee County. Next Door expanded from serving approximately 300 children to more than 1,000 children from birth to five years old in one year.

"This was a lot of growth in a short period of time – we knew it would be a challenge," said Tom Arenberg, Next Door's Board Chair from 2007 to 2017.

Tom said work began right away to find an additional site for Next Door to accommodate the influx of children and staff. They looked at 50 possible locations and found the perfect fit at the old Northwest General Hospital building at 53rd and Capitol Drive.

"It really fit our bill well with the right kind of square footage, it was on a bus line, and the infrastructure worked well for early childhood classrooms," Tom said.

Through bank financing and philanthropy, Next Door purchased the 103,000 square-foot facility and began site renovations. The playground was built in collaboration with Kohl's Cares, Kaboom and neighborhood volunteers.

In the fall of 2014, Next Door opened the Capitol Drive campus with 420 children and more than 100 teachers and staff.

In addition, Next Door launched a home-based Head Start program for three and four-year-old children. Tom is proud of this significant transition for Next Door.

"All of that hard work from our staff, leadership and board directors paid off and the children are benefiting from it today in so many positive ways," he said.



Improving Early Childhood Education Citywide



Next Door's expansion in the community stretched further in 2015 when the organization earned a federal grant to help provide high quality early childhood education to more families in Milwaukee.

Today, Next Door still leads this Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (CCP) grant program with nine early childhood organizations at 11 sites across Milwaukee County. At each location, a Next Door instructional coach offers individualized coaching and professional development for teachers – all to raise the quality of learning and care in their classroom.

Nancy Fernandez, pictured bottom left, is an early childhood teacher at La Causa – one of Next Door's CCP partners. She works with Next Door instructional coach, Lesvia Gregory – a partner Nancy says she can always count on.

"I love it because sometimes we have questions and we have struggles and she's always there for us," Nancy says.

Lesvia monitors Nancy's teaching strategies through classroom observations – some of which are recorded. During one-on-one coaching sessions at least once a week, they discuss Nancy's performance, student assessment tools, professional development opportunities and anything further she may need.

"I've been growing a lot, especially with Lesvia helping me. I feel like I'm a different teacher right now, more confident and more secure," Nancy said.

In addition to supporting teachers, the CCP program provides Next Door Family Advocates to support families at the partnership sites. The advocate works to ensure the family has community resources to help them succeed.

The CCP program allows Next Door to directly reach 344 children and families across 69 classrooms, and indirectly impact 1,400 additional children and families at the partner sites.

In 2017, the BizTimes Nonprofit Excellence Awards honored this program with an award for Nonprofit Collaboration of the Year.

Our Partners



Becoming “One Next Door”



With all the growth at Next Door, one of the more recent goals of our organization is ensuring all students and families – no matter which building they attend or program they are enrolled in – receive the same high quality early childhood education experience.

In 2017, Next Door adopted the “One Next Door” approach by spreading the national best practices of early learning from Next Door’s Educare program across the entire agency. The model features four core areas outlined below.

High Quality Teaching Practices: We surround every child with a high quality educational experience, including low teacher-student ratios, hands-on learning, and a focus on core academic and social-emotional development.

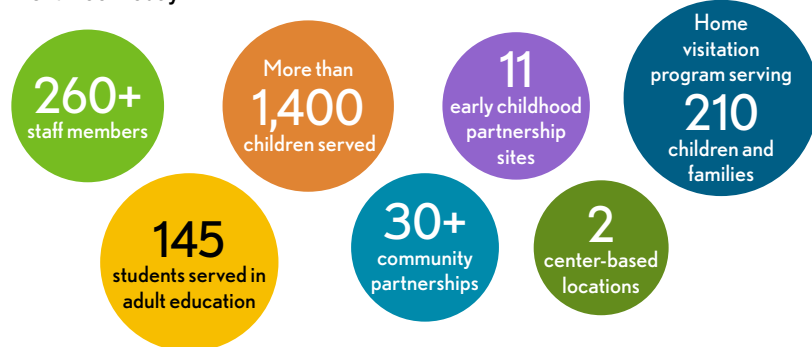
Embedded Professional Development: We ensure our teachers and staff have access to on-going high quality training and coaching opportunities.

Intensive Family Engagement: We partner with parents in their child’s education and offer community resources families need to succeed.

Data Utilization: We use data and research to improve our programs and create a lasting positive impact with every family we serve.

By utilizing the “One Next Door” approach, we are positioning Next Door as a preeminent leader in high quality early childhood education in Milwaukee and ensuring our students are ready for school.

Next Door Today



Darrian and Jace: Family Profile

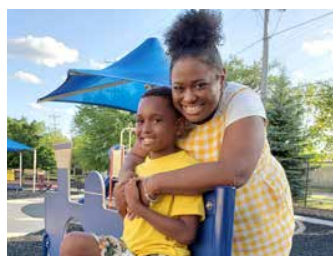
When Darrian Davis enrolled her son, Jace, at Next Door in 2013, a love of learning came quick.

"For Jace to be able to like his Next Door teachers right off the bat, it was easy for him to stay engaged. He was excited about learning, he wanted to come to school, and that set the tone for his academic success," Darrian said.

Jace was two years old when he started at Next Door's 29th Street campus – a place his mom knew about from living in the neighborhood.

Darrian said the teachers quickly identified areas where Jace needed assistance, such as his fine motor skills, and helped him overcome deficiencies. They also brought cultural diversity into the classroom and made sure Jace was ready for school.

"Jace went into school being able to read at K4. He knew all of his numbers, all of his shapes, and all of his colors," Darrian said.



In 2019, Jace started second grade at Woodlands School in Milwaukee. He's reading above grade level and venturing into chapter books. The eight-year-old likes math, too, and competes with friends on multiplication.

Outside of school, Jace plays football with the Neighborhood Children's Sports League, models for clothing retailers, and takes theater classes at First Stage. Jace also helps his mother while she runs their church's warming center in the winter.

"I help make the kids feel comfortable so the parents don't have to be worried about them," Jace said. "I usually bring Legos or something, or we'll just watch YouTube."

Jace's compassion extends to his school life as well. He shared the following story on his first day of second grade.

"Today, I met a new friend. He broke his collarbone so he couldn't play around on the playground so I played with him because he was lonely," Jace said.

Darrian attributes her son's success to the strong foundation and close bonds he formed at Next Door. She says they continue to stay in touch with Jace's teachers – Ms. Poornima and Ms. Victoria.

"They call me, we call them, they text – they have become more like family to us," Darrian said.

Darrian also maintains the family's ties to Next Door by serving on the agency's Board of Directors. Through this role, she has found the high quality experience that she and Jace enjoyed at Next Door remains strong today.

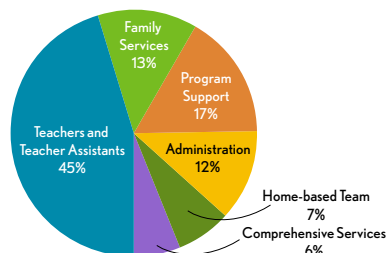
"It gives me confidence in the work that's being done at Next Door and not just at the teacher level but above, too," Darrian said.



Dedicated to Serve: Next Door Staff

As Next Door celebrates its first 50 years of service to the community, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our staff members. We started out with a small but passionate team at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Today, our team of 260+ employees always gives their best to ensure the greatest impact on the children and families we serve. You have all helped build strong children, strong families and a strong Milwaukee.

260+ Employees Today



Employees with 10+ years of service

We wish to recognize the following Next Door employees, who have committed ten or more years of service to the children and families in our community. They have made a significant impact on thousands of lives.

Patrice Battles	Ula Russell
Janelle Beckman-Rudolph	Lisa Sanders
Linda Behlke	Sonja Smith-Pica
Yupha Booncheingma	Deborah Spriggs-Ross
Lilly Carter	Martina Stevens
Kerenza Crooke	Myranda Syrjanen
Lucretia Dillon	Kim Tolbert
Mary Franklin	Debra Tucker
Lisa Garlie	Jill Udell
Jenna Heinen	Jeremy Walton
Kathy Hennig	Jesse Weathersby
Rena Hudson	Deborah Williams
Mai Yia Lor	Dee Yang
Lydia Reaves	



Our Volunteers

Since our beginnings, Next Door has relied heavily on the generous service of individuals giving of their time. As Next Door celebrates its first 50 years of service to the community, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our volunteers.

Over the years, our volunteers have spent time reading to our children, cleaning and repairing donated books for Books for Kids, supporting teachers in the classroom, working in our gardens, tutoring our adult education students and doing so much more to lend a helping hand.

In addition to providing important support to our programs, every hour a volunteer spends with Next Door is counted toward the community support match required by our federal Head Start grant. In short, volunteer hours are just as valuable as financial dollars.

Our volunteers come from all over the Greater Milwaukee area. Some come with friends and family while others volunteer with their workplaces, community organizations, formal service learning groups, schools and universities. **Next Door parents provide the largest amount of volunteer hours.** Together, all of these individuals help strengthen the impact of Next Door in our community.

Our volunteers inspire us with their unwavering compassion and enthusiasm for Next Door and help us create bright futures for the children and families we serve today. **Thank you for your time, commitment and service to Next Door.**

While volunteer hours vary from year to year, below is a sample of the incredible impact volunteers have at Next Door (numbers below reflect the 2018-2019 fiscal year).



Our Community Partners

As Next Door celebrates its first 50 years of service to the community, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our community partners. Through their support and collaboration, we have been able to enhance Next Door programming and services and provide valuable resources to our children, families and staff.

Resources have included: medical/dental care, mental health services, a kindergarten charter school, fellowship opportunities in teaching to support our classrooms, graduate student research to track our student progress, professional development for our staff, employment assistance for our parents and adult education programming for the community.

We thank you all for your generous partnership and allowing Next Door to have an even stronger impact on the community. Two of our long-time partners are highlighted in this section.

Milwaukee Area Technical College



Since Next Door's beginnings, adult education has been a consistent resource provided to individuals in the community. One of our long-time partners in providing adult education is Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC).

Through this partnership, running for more than two decades, MATC provides instructors who work closely with adult learners who wish to earn their GED or high school equivalency diploma.

The MATC instructors – along with volunteer tutors – primarily help prepare students for testing, and offer coaching on developing basic work skills.

MATC also provides classroom computers, computer-based student assessment testing and additional support by creating a pathway for students to enroll in a MATC program after earning their diploma.

Students in this program have reported forming close relationships with the instructors and consider them some of their strongest mentors.

Former students, like LaParis Mondy-Walton pictured below with two of her adult education instructors Peter Kafkas and Kaitlin Koepke, say the support was critical to her successful turnaround.

"I would say Next Door's adult education program prepared me for life. It helped me cope in life. It helped me to get back out into the real world," LaParis said.



Children's Wisconsin



One of the ways we have helped shape bright futures for Next Door children and families over the years is through health and wellness resources. Helping us offer these critical resources is one of our long-time community partners – Children's Wisconsin (formerly Children's Hospital of Wisconsin).

In the late 1990s, Next Door launched a partnership with Children's that began with the hospital operating a pediatric outpatient clinic inside Next Door's 29th Street building.

The clinic served children from newborns to teenagers with services including preventative screenings, immunizations, well-baby checks, and acute on-site care. By 2000, the clinic was seeing more than 1,000 patients annually.

This partnership took a major step forward in 2010 when Children's broke ground on a new clinic called Next Door Pediatrics on the 29th Street campus. Peggy Troy, CEO of Children's, pictured bottom right, spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony. Also attending were Dr. Patricia Safavi, Dr. Earnestine Willis and Dr. Ishrat Siddique, pictured left to right in top right photo, who have all served the Next Door community over the years. Next Door Pediatrics opened in 2011 and continues to offer medical and dental care for Next Door families and the community at large.

In the past, Children's provided on-site nursing staff to serve Next Door children during the school day. Hospital executives have also served on Next Door's Board of Directors.

Today, we currently work with Dr. Heather Paradis from Children's as a consulting Medical Director.

Further, a Family Navigator with Children's works in Next Door's Family Success Center at our 29th Street campus. The navigator offers Next Door parents and neighborhood families community resources like healthcare, housing and special services for children.



Our Founders Society

Since our beginnings, generous individuals, families, and community and business leaders have seen the value in investing in Next Door's mission and programs. As Next Door celebrates its first 50 years of service to the community, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our donors. They have collectively provided tens of millions of dollars in funding to support Next Door. We thank you for your incredible generosity and for enabling Next Door to grow and evolve over the past five decades.

We wish to recognize our Founders Society donors who have each given cumulative gifts of \$500,000 and more to support Next Door's programs and services for the community.

Bader Philanthropies, Inc.	Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation
The Bechthold Family and Payne & Dolan, Inc.	Mary and Ted Kellner and the Kelben Foundation
Joan and Fred Brengel Family Foundation	The Kresge Foundation
Buffett Early Childhood Fund	The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
Children's Wisconsin	Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Faye McBeath Foundation	Suzanne and Richard Pieper and the Suzanne and Richard Pieper Family Foundation
Fleck Foundation and Fleck Controls, Inc.	Siebert Lutheran Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation	Richard and Ann Teerlink and the Teerlink Family Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation - Anonymous Fund	Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Harley-Davidson Foundation	United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County, Inc.
Helwig Carbon Products, Inc.	
Herzfeld Foundation	



Legacy Society

We thank the many generous donors who have included Next Door in their estate plan. Planned gifts help donors perpetuate their values and priorities long into the future by providing long-term, sustainable support of Next Door programs.

A Friend of Next Door	Al Keeley	Suzanne and Richard Pieper
Joan Aker	Mary and Ted Kellner	Larry and Jeanne Prochnow
Hope H. Anderson*	Janice Klemz	Patricia Roehrig
Diane and Thomas Arenberg	Michael Klemz	Paul and Kathleen Roller
Dr. Fred and Kay Austermann	Jason and Dawn Koenitzer	Gael and David Romoser
John and Carol Bannen	John* and Joyce Koenitzer	Rev. Edward A. and Katie Ruen
Margaret I. Bast*	Kathy and Elaine Lambert	Jennifer and Joseph Tate
Lisa Berman	Dick and Elaine Larsen	Eileen* and Alex* Treis
Mrs. Franklin M. Buchta	Jim and Camilla Levin	Byron Tween*
Mary Conlon	Bob and Patty Long	Thora Vervoren
Robert Ferriday	Judie Koenitzer McGhee	Jim and Gracia Willis
Dr. Susan E. Gruber	Susan D. Mischler	Bettie Zillman*
Christopher Hare	Donald K. Mundt*	
Virginia John*	Joan Oppeneer*	
Darla Kashian	James Oswald*	

*Deceased

Our Board of Directors

As Next Door celebrates its first 50 years of service to the community, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Next Door's Board of Directors. Since 1969, more than 120 individuals representing Milwaukee corporations, universities, organizations, community advocates and parents of children enrolled at Next Door have served as Board directors. **Their leadership and expertise has helped guide Next Door as the organization evolved over five decades. We thank you all for being loyal ambassadors for Next Door and helping us thrive for 50 years.**



Michael Aldana	John Infield	John Schliske
Linda Allen, PhD	Sadique Isahaku, PhD ^	Donald Schneider
Terry Anderson	Russell Jacobsen	Kathy Schrader
Thomas Arenberg +	Bradley Jansen ^	Daniel Schroeder
Curt Bagnall	William Jenkins	Roger Schroeder
Lynn Barney	Michael Johnson, MD	Wendy Schueller ^
Chris Bauer +	Mary Kellner, PhD +	Lorraine Schuller*
Thomas Bausch	Donald Kieffer	Sean Scullen ^
Kurt Bechthold	Hans Kirkegaard	Candace Seider
Ned Bechthold *	Jason Klein ^	Michael Shapiro
Paul Bee ^	Michael Klemz	Alan Shoho, EdD
Jeb Bentley ^	John Koenitzer *	Deloris Sims
Robert Benz +	Donald Kossow	Dan Sisel ^
Michael Berzowski +	Julie Krey	Art Smith
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David Bozeman	Joseph Kunze	Quamale Stanton ^
John Bremer	Loise Ladd-Whitson	J. Allen Stokes
Peter Bruce +	Katherine Lambert ^	Perry Stuckey
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Steven Chamberlin	Sam Licavoli	Joseph Tate
Vance Coleman	Marcia Lucas	Rich Teerlink
Simone Conceicao, PhD ^	Vincent Lyles	Zach TeWinkel
Rebecca Cook ^	Laurie Mahoney	Mark Thomas
Benjamin Cordani ^	Derrick Martin	Byron Tween*
Vicky Cordani ^	Charles Matthews	Emma van Rooyen
Carla Cross	L. Christopher Miller	Jack Werner
Gloster Current, Jr.	Randolph Molex	Lana Wiese +
Darrian Davis	J. Bary Morgan	Robert Wiese
Bishop Paul Diers	Jamie Morningstar	Zettabel Williams
Daryl Diesing + *	Donald Mundt *	Earnestine Willis, MD
Susan Doyle	Molly Mulroy ^	James Willis
Robert Duncan	Tanika Murphy ^	John Wilson
Walter Dusold	William Nasgovitz	Bob VanHimbergen ^ +
Kimberly Eccleston	Julie Peck	Barbara Wanzo ^
James Ericson	Thomas Quade	Nancy Young
Michael Festge	Rev. Barbara Rasmussen	
Mark Filmanowicz ^	John Richmond	
Dinah Gant	Amy Rislov ^	
Royal Gordon *	Howard Ritchie, Jr.	
Jennifer Green	Tchernavia Rocker	
Susan Gruber +	Bishop Peter Rogness	
Jon Hammes	W. David Romoser +	
Curtiss Harris	Mick Roschke	
Steve Hasbrook	Rev. Edward Ruen	
Paul Heiss	Steven SaLoutos	
Carole Herbstreit-Kalinyen	Timothy Schaefer	

^ Current Board Director
+ Past Board President/Chair
* Deceased

Celebrating our First 50 Years

To commemorate our first 50 years of serving our community, Next Door launched a 50th Anniversary Campaign in January 2019. The campaign focused on three main areas of activity – fundraising, community relations and events – with a purpose of re-engaging long-time friends who were a part of Next Door at its beginnings, bringing new community members into the Next Door family, and increasing awareness of and supporting the highest quality early childhood education in Milwaukee for the years ahead.

We started the year with our President's Breakfast at the place where Next Door began – at Our Savior's Lutheran Church – and hosted our pinnacle celebration in the beautiful atrium and ballroom of our 50-year partner Northwestern Mutual.

Throughout the year, we welcomed dozens of community members and organizations into Next Door to provide inspiring experiences for our students; help increase awareness of the critical issues related to early childhood education through screenings of the documentary *No Small Matter*; celebrate our staff's daily investment in our mission with a picnic and a holiday breakfast; participate in the 30th year of our annual Walk for Children with a parade-style neighborhood walk and block party; share 50 stories from 50 years; volunteer and donate books; and join our biggest ever Read with Me – with 335 volunteers reading to every child at Next Door on a single morning.

We thank everyone who was a part of our 50th year – your support made this milestone year one we will never forget!

\$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 WTMJ, PNC Bank's "Grow Up Great" Planetarium, Executive Women International, Milwaukee Ballet, and more

92,307

Books donated through community book drives

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



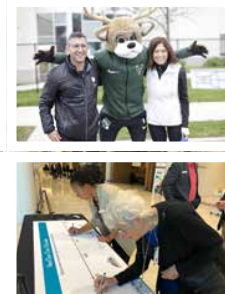
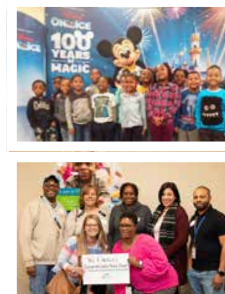
Brenda and Matt Levatich, Chairs
50th Anniversary Celebration

50th Anniversary Campaign Committee

Thomas Arenberg
Lynn Barney ★★
Donna Baumgartner
Lisa Berman
Peter Bruce
Jennifer Buchanan
Mary Conlon
Rebecca Cook
Vicky Cordani ★★
Susan Doyle
Linda Groth ★★
Kathryn Housiaux ★
Dr. Sadique Isahaku
Mary Kellner ★★
Hans Kirkegaard
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Kathy Lambert
Tim Larson
Marge Laughlin
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Usamah Loveless
Laurie Mahoney
Jamie Morningstar
Tanika Murphy
Sharyn Parsons ★
Sue Pieper
Jeanne Prochnow
April Rechlitz
David Romoser
Nancy Roos ★★
Rev. Ed Ruen
Bob VanHimbergen
Craig Williams

★ 50th Anniversary Celebration Sub-committee

◆ Community Read with Me Sub-committee







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