



Bright Futures

Volume 4 • Number 2

Spring 2020

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.

Letter from the President

I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy through this difficult time.

On March 16th, we suspended our on-site programming because of the COVID-19 health crisis in our community. Since then, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to Next Door staff and the children and families we serve.

We have been able to maintain full staffing levels and salaries for our 260+ employees during the "Safer at Home" order. We are also staying connected with our team members through all-staff Zoom meetings where they receive updates on the work happening at Next Door during the closure and get a chance to submit questions.

Our dedicated staff is working extraordinarily hard to continue engaging students in critical academic and social-emotional learning at home while supporting their families with basic needs. Below are examples of our outreach.

- Weekly distribution of healthy breakfast/lunch meals, diapers, wipes, formula, books and take-home educational packets through pick-up and home delivery.

- Weekly check-ins from Next Door Family Advocates and Parent Educators who make sure our families have what they need to get through this tough time.
- Teachers engaging with students in online lessons, providing at-home activities through classroom portals and delivering educational materials to their homes.
- Phone hotlines with Next Door staff helping with emergency needs plus consultation for handling challenging behaviors from children.

Generous community members are lending a hand, too, by purchasing items for Next Door families from our Emergency Needs Amazon Wish List. People have also recorded themselves reading stories for our online "Read with Me" program that we're sharing with our families at home. More information is inside on ways to help. Thank you for your interest, compassion and support of Next Door.

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President

Check out our students learning at home!



Alice is a two-year-old student in Next Door's home-based program. She is reading the book, "My First Words at Home," with her mom. The book was provided by Next Door and is in the family's native language, Karen, and English.



Deanna is a three-year-old student at Next Door's 29th Street campus. She's practicing her shapes on the wall at home and lining them all up perfectly!

Next Door teachers and staff step up with school closure support!

Getting Next Door families basic needs

Since March 16, 2020, Next Door has provided a weekly distribution program offering healthy meals and critical household supplies to families enrolled at our two center-based locations, home visitation program and 11 partnership sites.



4,000+ breakfast and lunch meals distributed

400+ packages of diapers and wipes distributed



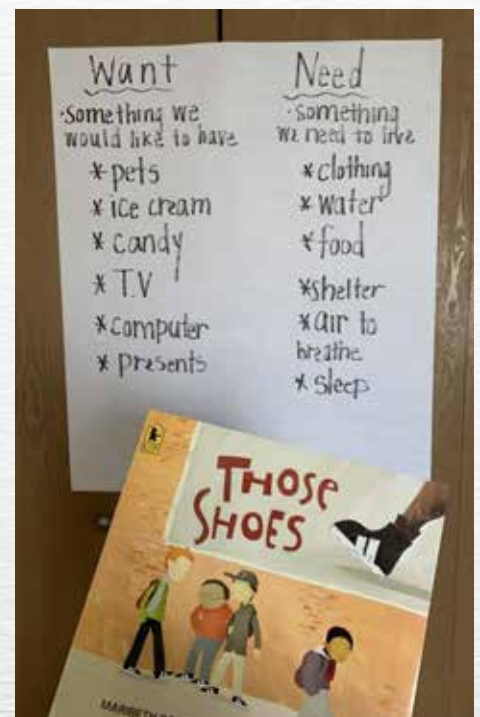
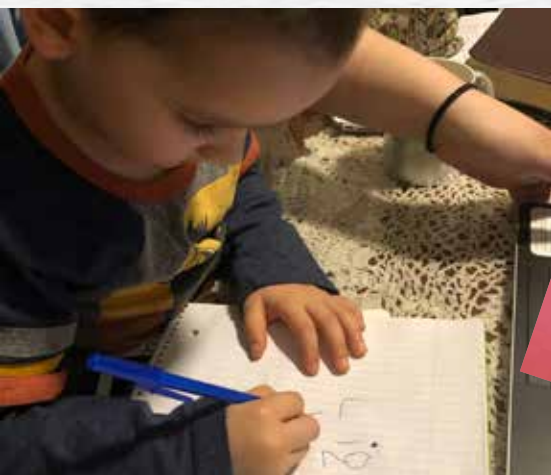
2,100+ free books distributed

1,100 backpacks distributed with educational materials

Keeping Next Door students engaged in learning

On the right, Ms. Ali turned a closet at her home into a white board with material created for an interactive Facebook Live lesson with her K5 students. The lesson was about wants versus needs and utilized the book, "Those Shoes" by Maribeth Boelts, to help build an understanding for the children.

Below, Ms. Sheila created journals for her three-year-old students and dropped them off at their homes. She's encouraging them to keep track of the different activities they're doing while learning from home. Pictured is Liam writing his name in his journal.



Looking for ways to support Next Door right now?

NextDoorMKE.org/ways-to-help/

Emergency Needs Amazon Wish List

Purchase items like diapers, wipes, shampoo, dish soap and laundry detergent for our families. The items will ship right to us so we can get them to our families immediately.



Books for Kids Amazon Wish List

Purchase new books for Next Door students and help them build their home libraries and a love of reading early on.



Make a Donation

Support Next Door with a financial gift so we can help our children and families get through this difficult time.



Submit an online "Read with Me" story

Share the joy and fun of story time by recording yourself reading a children's book and we'll send the video to our students to enjoy at home.



Walk a Mile for a Child with Next Door's Virtual Walk for Children

Help us reach our goal of 1,400 total miles walked – that's one mile for each child at Next Door!

Walk at your own pace in your own place with our new virtual Walk starting May 18 with a virtual family celebration on May 22.

To register go to www.nextdoormke.org/walkforchildren2020
For more information contact Georgia Young at gyoung@NextDoorMKE.org

All proceeds benefit Next Door's mission to build stronger families through education.

Governor Evers at Next Door!



We thank Governor Tony Evers for visiting Next Door on February 14, 2020. He came to learn about the Leading Men Fellowship – a partnership program with the Literacy Lab. This partnership is helping Next Door strengthen school-readiness and social-emotional development for our students with young men of color teaching in our classrooms and serving as positive male role models..