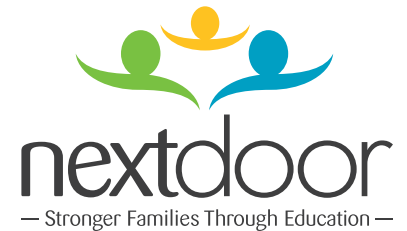


A Statement from Next Door's Board of Directors



June 12, 2020

Next Door's mission is to help get children ready for success in school – and in life.

Today, 86 percent of the families Next Door supports are members of the Black community. Each school day, our faculty, staff, board directors, and volunteers see the love Next Door parents have for their children. We see their pride when their children reach a new milestone. We hear them speak of their dreams for their children's future. We are proud to share in their love, their pride and their dreams.

The barriers our children and families face are powerful and pervasive – including symptoms of poverty and systemic racism.

Recent incidents of racial violence, like the murder of George Floyd, underscore the need for us all to join together in addressing matters of racism and injustice in a united, meaningful way. As Next Door's Board of Directors, we stand in solidarity with those who are peacefully protesting the systemic racism that is evident in our community and across the country.

We do not have all of the answers, but we believe that Next Door's primary work – early childhood education – is part of the long-term solution to build stronger families in our community.

As a Board, we are committed to listening more to the families we support, to strengthening our work as an anti-racist organization, and to working with others in Milwaukee to build a community that is equitable, inclusive and celebrates diversity.

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