



Bright Futures

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Winter 2021

Connect With Us

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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

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy.

We're going into 2021 with much to be thankful for at Next Door. Our dedicated staff continues to adapt and innovate during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure nearly 1,000 Next Door children receive critical early childhood education and family support services. We're grateful as well for the community's end-of-year giving to Next Door in 2020 and for the generosity extended to our families through book donations, holiday gifts and donations to meet basic needs at home.

Based on the current situation, our operations continue with a mix of in-person and virtual learning options for families. We implemented more safety precautions in our buildings like new air purifiers and distributed FEND nasal hygiene kits to all Next Door employees as another way to support their health. Across our virtual programming, we continue providing school supplies and technology support, and a series of online curriculum platforms to supplement teaching sessions over Zoom.

We have more to be proud of in the following accomplishments and agency recognition.

- We participated in a study from Centers for Disease Control examining how Head Start programs prevented COVID-19 outbreaks through safety protocols implemented as part of phased-in reopening. Our involvement led to national news coverage from Business Insider.
- We continued our work around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with the administration of staff surveys and a series of focus groups in late 2020. We will develop the program details in the coming year based on employee feedback and consulting support.
- Our annual staff survey is out showing positive results! Some of our highest scores centered on being a part of meaningful work in Milwaukee, employee relationships with managers and Next Door operating with strong values.

We realize more hard work is ahead during these challenging times. But we are motivated now more than ever to keep doing the most important work in Milwaukee! Thanks for your interest and support.

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President

BizTimes honors community clinic at Next Door

The Next Step Clinic at Next Door won the Non-profit Collaboration of the Year Award from the BizTimes Nonprofit Excellence Awards program in November of 2020. The clinic is a partnership of several community organizations and universities, working together to make high quality mental health and developmental services accessible for underserved Milwaukee families.

Led by Mental Health America of Wisconsin and Marquette University, the clinic supports families with a team of licensed psychologists, graduate students in psychology and family navigators. Services include: medical diagnosis of autism,



Parent-Child Interaction Therapy with coaching for parents of young children with behavioral problems, and Compassion and Resilience Training to help families manage the demands of having a child with special needs.

Thank You to our Generous Community Supporters!

“If You Give a Child a Book” Campaign

We want to thank TMJ4 and Scripps Howard Foundation for leading a community campaign to raise money for Next Door’s Books for Kids program. In celebration of National Reading Day in January, the station safely visited Next Door to help distribute books purchased through the campaign, which **raised more than \$21,000!**

The donations from the public and TMJ4 employees **allowed Next Door to purchase 4,232 new books** and help our students build their home libraries with board books, picture books and multicultural books. We would also like to thank Bank Five Nine, which offered a \$5,000 matching gift to the campaign.



Holiday Gift Giving

We would like to thank all of the community donors who contributed to Next Door’s Holiday Gift Giving program in 2020.

Through the generosity of companies, organizations and families, we were able to ensure **all Next Door students – more than 900 children – received gifts to open during the holiday season.** In addition, donors adopted nearly 70 of our families and purchased gifts for all of their family members.



Courtesy: Physicians Realty Trust

Family Kit Support

We would like to thank all of the community donors who contributed to Next Door in 2020 through our Amazon Wish List of basic needs for our families.

With your support, **we collected more than 1,600 items of food, personal hygiene products and household cleaning products.** We assembled the donations into family kits to support Next Door families at home during the pandemic.



More Ways to Support Next Door in the New Year!

Books for Kids Amazon Wish List

Purchase books celebrating Black History Month and help children in Milwaukee build home libraries. To learn more, scan the QR code below or visit NextDoorMKE.org/get-involved/



Family Kit Amazon Wish List

Purchase winter gear for kids, socks and family hygiene kits to support Next Door families. To learn more, scan the QR code below or visit NextDoorMKE.org/get-involved/



A New Year of Learning

Next Door students kicked off 2021 with new learning adventures and opportunities to grow both academically and social-emotionally. Due to COVID-19 safety measures, 60% of our students are attending daily in-person programming at our two sites while 40% of students are enrolled in daily virtual classrooms. We're operating our home-based prenatal services and early childhood education programs virtually with weekly sessions for families. We are currently following a city mandate requiring masks for children ages three and older in our on-site learning (those pictured unmasked below are from a two-year-old classroom).

On-site Learning



Mickey reads one of the new multicultural books he received from Next Door's Books for Kids program called "Sulwe."

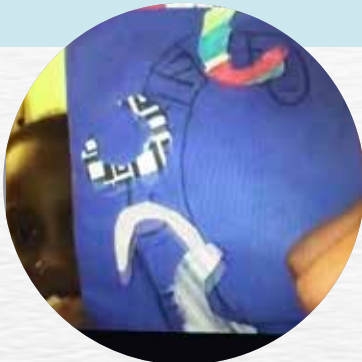


Precious likes to explore the cardboard blocks in her classroom and build the tallest towers!



Nixon works on his early writing skills with different paper textures.

Virtual Learning



During a classroom "show-and-tell" over Zoom, Johntil shares the collage he made based on a lesson about the letter "C."



A student shares his new pair of shoes with his classmates during a "Sharing Day" in this K4 classroom over Zoom.



During a classroom exercise over Zoom, Karleon sorts his coins into a graph and practices counting.

Home-based Family Education



During a virtual visit with her Parent Educator, Jenevy builds a home for a penguin using sugar cubes and glue.



One of our Parent Educators leads a virtual family socialization event making snowmen together.



Jackson shows off a tracing worksheet he completed as part of a lesson on developing fine motor skills.



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Winter Learning Adventures at Next Door!



Devonte and his classmates are getting into the winter spirit at Next Door with fun and engaging arts and crafts projects. Here, he's showing off the hat and gloves he designed with a variety of materials like construction paper, markers, glitter, snowflake stickers, and cotton balls. What a beautiful job he did learning through art!