



## 2020 Report to the Community



# Doing the Most Important Work in Milwaukee

## Dear Friends,

We write this letter with an enormous sense of pride and gratitude to the Next Door community. Our family of teachers, support staff, board directors, donors, volunteers and community partners all helped us carry out Next Door’s critical early childhood education and family support services during an unprecedented and challenging year. We thank you for your hard work, perseverance and generosity.

With your support, we served our children and families with weekly-check-ins, virtual learning opportunities, basic needs and more during our spring closure. We executed a careful, phased-in reopening for the rest of the year with in-person and virtual learning options. On-site, we implemented precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible. Our virtual learning featured daily interaction with teachers, online curriculum programs and support with technology and school supplies.

We moved forward in several other ways including: launching a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative, earning a spot on the 2020 “Best Places to Work” by the Milwaukee Business Journal, hosting a Virtual Walk for Children, and renovating our 29th Street campus with bright, interactive spaces for student learning and parent engagement.

Inside, you’ll find a more in-depth look at our work and our achievements in 2020 and a special series of profiles featuring Next Door Heroes. We appreciate your interest and support of Next Door!

**Bob VanHimbergen, CPA** Board Chair  
**Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.** President

## Thank You, Bob!

After 12 years serving on Next Door’s Board of Directors, Bob VanHimbergen completed his final term at the end of 2020. Bob was our Board Chair for the past three years. He is extending his service for an additional year to support the transition to a new Board Chair. We’re grateful to Bob for his leadership, commitment and generosity to the children and families of Next Door.



# Meet the McFarlane Family



When Next Door had to close temporarily in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic, students like Kai, Kayley and Adriel McFarlane, Jr., yearned to go back intensely.

**“There were days where we had to drive past the school just to show the kids the building because they didn’t understand why all of the sudden something that was so important to them was taken away,” Kamonti McFarlane said.**

Kamonti and her husband, Adriel, Sr., said Next Door stayed close with weekly phone calls from their children’s teachers and family advocates.

**“We were in the house together for a long period of time, and just having them check in with us, ask us if there was anything we needed and talking us through it – it helped a lot,” Kamonti said.**

The couple says teachers and family advocates provided an online learning platform with age-appropriate lessons for each child and classroom portals with activities to do at home, recorded story time and links to share student work.

“The continuous learning was still there for them. There were still opportunities for them to grow,” Adriel, Sr., said.

**Kai, Kayley and Adriel, Jr., have been growing at Next Door since their arrival in the fall of 2017.** By age two, Kai and Kayley knew most of their colors and shapes, could count to ten and even recognize feelings. Early on, Adriel, Jr., developed critical thinking skills through

lots of back-and-forth conversation with his teachers. One of his teachers even helped him secure a scholarship to advance his reading through a program at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

**“From the start, Next Door has helped our family grow in so many different ways – and not only academically but just keeping families together and making sure we have resources that are needed,” Kamonti said.**

She and her husband say the family support in 2020 included parent Zoom meetings where they learned about topics like social-emotional learning. Through free distribution events, they received healthy meals and snacks, backpacks with educational supplies and recreational items like jump ropes and sidewalk chalk.

One of the biggest lessons from 2020 for Kamonti and Adriel, Sr., came from witnessing just how much their children love Next Door.

**“You can now start to see the invaluable nature of the relationships that they have with their friends, the relationships that they have with their teachers and how the environment at school is instrumental in their upbringing.** You can now see the true value and that’s the biggest thing that I’ve taken away during this time of the pandemic,” Adriel, Sr., said.





# Spring Closure

On March 16th, we suspended our on-site programming because of the COVID-19 health crisis in our community. Following the state-wide Safer at Home order, we had to quickly navigate uncharted territory and devise a plan to support nearly 1,400 children and families across our center-based, home visitation and partnership programming.

Our priorities centered on meeting our families' basic needs at home while continuing to educate and engage their children during a critical period of brain development. We also worked hard to keep our staff connected and supported during this difficult period. Below is a closer look at our efforts.

## Supporting our Families

- 4,000+ breakfast/lunch meals distributed through pick-up and home delivery
- 400+ packages of diapers and wipes distributed through pick-up and home delivery
- 2,100+ free books distributed through pick-up and home delivery
- Weekly check-ins from Next Door Family Advocates and Parent Educators
- Phone hotline for emergency needs
- Phone hotline with consultation for handling challenging behaviors from children



## Supporting Student Education

- Connected classrooms through an online portal to post lessons, activities and share student work
- Held virtual classroom meetings for story time and other instruction
- Offered recorded video demonstrations by teachers for remote learning projects
- Safely delivered supplies and activities to students' homes
- Distributed 1,100 backpacks with educational supplies



## Supporting our Staff

- Maintained full staffing levels during this period
- Introduced a Microsoft Office suite to carry out remote work, maintain interdepartmental communications and share resources
- Held all-staff Zoom meetings to share organizational updates
- Offered virtual mindfulness and yoga sessions
- Held weekly drawings for prizes safely delivered to the winners' homes
- Mailed staff motivational yard signs, masks and encouraging notes



# Next Door Heroes

We want to thank the entire Next Door team for their extraordinary work, flexibility and innovation during 2020. In our Next Door Heroes series, we're celebrating some of the people across the agency who helped keep our students, families and employees safe and connected during a difficult year.

## Brooke Small

Early Head Start Teacher

Brooke was part of the first group of teachers to return for Next Door's phased-in reopening in June. She introduced safety measures through activities like hand tracing and designing clean and dirty hands to show the difference. Working with two-year-old students, she had one main priority for her teaching. "When it comes to two-year-olds, it's all based on structured routine and implementing it every day. It seems to get the kids involved and ready." By the end of the year, Brooke noticed gains in her students' conversation, colors, counting and social-emotional learning.



## Khalilah Lewis

Head Start Teacher

Khalilah helped her three-year-old students transition back to the classroom by encouraging discussion about COVID-19 and sharing experiences. She focused on intentional, repetitious teaching for new safety measures and said students complied well, even speaking up if they saw something unsafe. Her assessments showed the pandemic didn't impact learning. The children continued to grow with a constant message of assurance from her. "This is a place where you can be safe, this is the place where you come to learn, this is the place where we come to have fun and be together – and that has not changed."



## Kiley Kennedy

K4 Teacher

Kiley returned to classroom teaching in the fall aiming to maintain a traditional student experience as much as possible. "I really focused on keeping to the units and trying to make school as normal as possible for the children." While promoting safety throughout her classroom, Kiley engaged her students in learning experiences covering topics like trees, buildings and pets. She also engaged parents by displaying their children's work in a window near the outside pick-up area for children during the pandemic. Kiley reported particular gains for her students in core areas like spelling their names and rhyming.



## Carmen Parker

K5 Teacher

Carmen focused on two main priorities while teaching on-site during the pandemic. "It was just a lot of structure and routine, and then expressing the importance of keeping each other safe so we can stay safe at school and when we're not at school." She promoted safety through daily reminders, books and experiments. She also worked closely with students showing academic regression with one-on-one support and offered parents resources to help at home. Carmen reported improvements with these students, and observed other children building more confidence and social skills by being back in the classroom.





# Summer Reopening

Knowing we had an obligation to provide our critical early childhood education programs to children who need them, we began a slow, multi-phase reopening process for Next Door in June. We welcomed back a select number of our youngest learners, ages birth to three, at both of our locations. We also launched a summer school program to prepare students entering K5 for the new school year.

Reopening came with extensive planning and consultation with local, state and federal organizations — and our staff — to ensure we were providing a safe environment for our children and employees.

## Safety Precautions

- Temperature checks
- Daily COVID-19 health screening
- On-site health services team for children with symptoms
- Masks required for staff/children ages 3+
- Hands-free sanitizer stations
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing procedures
- Classroom practices to promote social distancing
- COVID-19 health education for students
- No intermingling of classrooms
- Limiting visitors
- Parent drop-off/pick-up outside the building

## Family Survey

In June, Next Door conducted a survey of our parents/guardians. The survey included questions about their overall experience at Next Door and how they felt about the virtual learning during our time away from school in the spring.

### Overall Experience at Next Door

- 100% of families see Next Door as a trusted source of information
- 98% of families see that they are an equal partner in their children's education
- 98% of families feel that communicating with their child's teacher, family advocate and parent educator is open and easy

### Spring Virtual Learning

- 98% of families felt confident in their ability to support their child's learning at home
- 90% of families felt that the teacher/parent educator communication was helpful in their child's learning
- 93% of families felt that their family advocate/parent educator was supportive in providing resources for their family

## Programming



Next Door student Michael participated in a summer school program to get ready for K5. The program included health education about the importance of wearing masks and practicing safe hygiene habits.



Ms. Talise and her co-teachers led a water study in their three-year-old class this summer. Here, the students learned about how water reacts to different materials like water beads, water colors, sugar, oil and rice.



ANi and Alijah practice the drums during music time with Ms. Shantageia.

# Next Door Heroes

## Tenishia Ragsdale

Head Start Virtual Teacher

Ms. Tenishia led a three-year-old class daily in morning and afternoon Zoom sessions for Next Door's virtual learning option for families. If a family missed a class, she offered separate sessions for them. She focused on physical activities, back-and-forth conversation and visual aids like PowerPoint presentations and flannel board stories. Some of her greatest success came during "show and tell" when students presented their work of the day. "The children were very excited about that part of the day and very interested in what their friends had done. They were asking, "What did you do? What did you find?"



## LaJuana Brandon-Thompson

Early Head Start Virtual Teacher

LaJuana taught some of Next Door's youngest learners — ages 1 and 2 — in virtual sessions every day. They met one-on-one over Zoom with the child's parent and often started singing a song followed by an activity. She sent materials to students' homes that they could use together like books, paint and lacing beads. She supplemented her teaching with an online curriculum platform to keep up student engagement. As a virtual teacher, she participated in monthly reflective practice with her colleagues. "We just talked about what's working and what's not and fed off each other and tried to encourage one another. It was very helpful."



## Natasha Fair

Parent Educator

Natasha led weekly, virtual visits with the families she serves in Next Door's home-based early childhood education program. She spent time reading stories to children, singing songs and promoting self-expression through art. She worked with parents on ways to support their child's education and encouraged use of common household items to engage them. Natasha safely delivered food, diapers and wipes to families and referred them to community resources for housing, winter coats, holiday baskets, car seats and more. She said consistency and flexibility were key through it all. "It's just meeting that parent where they are and doing my best to serve them."



## Sana Boateng

Parent Educator

Sana led weekly, virtual visits with the families she serves in Next Door's prenatal services program. She helped expectant mothers navigate the different phases of pregnancy and learn about parenting with the latest education. "The families really like that because they're learning different techniques. They are being taught things they didn't know before, so they're more empowered as a parent." Sana provided community resources for doulas, doctors, baby supplies, food, housing, and mental health support. Some of the mothers gave birth this year and Sana stayed close, working with them on routine mother/child interactions like feeding and reading.



# Our New School Year

To plan a safe and effective new school year, the Next Door team spent the summer developing a combination of in-person and virtual learning options for families across all of our programming. The plan incorporated input from employee work groups, family surveys and local, state and national health experts.

We based our plan on the following guiding principles:

- Maintain and support staff to the extent possible and practicable
- Ensure safety and wellness of children and staff
- Focus on responsive, high quality learning experiences to prepare children for success in school
- Ensure that children's and families' needs are met
- Innovate and be flexible
- Be careful stewards of our funding sources

## On-Site Learning

- Programming five days a week
- Literacy, math, science, and art curriculum
- Weekly check-ins from Family Advocates
- Behavioral, disability and mental health support services
- Medical/dental support
- Free books to build home libraries



## Virtual Learning

- Daily interaction with teachers
- Literacy, math, science, and art curriculum
- Weekly check-ins from Family Advocates
- Technology/school supplies support
- Behavioral, disability and mental health support services
- Medical/dental support
- Free books to build home libraries



## Home-Based Family Education

- 100% virtual programming
- Prenatal and early childhood education
- Weekly sessions with Parent Educators
- Technology/school supplies support
- Behavioral, disability and mental health support services
- Medical/dental support
- Virtual socializations with families in small groups
- Free books to build home libraries



## Partnership Sites

- 11 early childhood partner sites around Milwaukee
- Next Door Instructional Coaches for partner teachers
- Next Door Family Advocates supporting partner families
- Behavioral, disability and mental health support services
- Books for Kids Mobile Library visits with free books for kids



# Next Door Heroes

## Shyrese Holmes Family Advocate

Shyrese works to ensure Next Door families have what they need to succeed. During this challenging year, she checked in with parents at least once a week with phone calls, texts and video chats. She guided them to community resources for housing, employment, emergency needs and mental health support. She even met safely with a grandmother to help her navigate online paperwork for a special education plan for her granddaughter. She said regular communication was key and brought her families much comfort. "I always tell parents, 'I'm here to help you. I'm here to support you. I want the best for you.'"



## Linda Behlke Instructional Coach

Linda spent 2020 supporting early childhood education teachers in the community through Next Door's Child Care Partnership (CCP) program. She worked with teachers virtually at YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, one of Next Door's nine CCP partners. She offered feedback through live observation and coached teachers on classroom management strategies, teaching practices, lesson plan development and student assessment skills. She also engaged them in reflective practice and overall, witnessed remarkable progress. "They jumped right into this new format of working together virtually and they are flourishing."



## Kayla Tillisch Special Education Teacher

Kayla spent 2020 working with students on-site and virtually to help them overcome communication, emotional and academic challenges. She focused on building strong relationships, consistency, high engagement and frequent collaboration with teachers. One engagement included sending children letter stencils and paint for virtual activities together. One of her favorite outcomes was with a virtual student struggling to express herself. "Her personality is really showing. She's so comfortable and able to express herself very well even with a virtual barrier. If anything, it has actually enhanced her own personal way of learning."



## Kate Campbell Positive Behavior Intervention Specialist

Kate works with Next Door teachers on developing effective strategies to deescalate challenging student behaviors in the classroom. In 2020, she engaged in more professional development to support teachers and worked with them on a new model gathering more data to get to the root of the child's misbehavior. She encouraged teachers to try strategies like Zones of Regulations to help children identify emotions and ways to calm down. From her perspective, teachers worked harder than ever this year. "The commitment from the teachers to try everything they can do has been really amazing to watch."





# Supporting Mental Health

Next Door’s mental health team took on a significant role this year with rising traumatic stress events stemming from the COVID-19 health crisis. Factors like social isolation at home, disrupted routines and financial struggles exacerbated existing emotional issues and created new challenges for children and parents. Our mental health specialists utilized a trauma-informed model to offer support to children and parents in the three primary areas below.

## Positive Behavioral Support Team (PBST)

This team of intervention specialists work closely with teachers and parents to evaluate a variety of behavioral issues with children in the classroom and develop effective strategies to address them. The ultimate goal is to have the children continue learning with their teachers and peers without disruption.

- Offered a hotline for parents with questions/concerns during the Safer at Home period
- Conducted mental health screenings by phone and made referrals to community resources
- Provided activities to help keep stress levels down
- Supported several children struggling with the transition back to school in the fall through classroom observation, one-on-one intervention and community resources
- Incorporated ideas like Zones of Regulation to help children visually identify and understand emotions and proper ways to handle them
- Promoted structured routines, a loving and safe school environment, rewards for good behavior and choices to handle difficult feelings and tasks
- Worked with parents on education to reinforce positive behaviors at home



## Parent Support Group

- A new program in 2020 for parents with children facing mental health challenges
- Monthly sessions over Zoom with Next Door’s Mental Health Supervisor as a moderator
- A safe space for parents to come together, share what they’re going through and offer ideas and support for one another

## Community Resources

- Aurora Family Service is a long-time Next Door partner offering mental health counseling for children and families. Next Door made referrals to this program for students coping with trauma-related behavioral issues.
- The Next Step Clinic is a new community resource based at Next Door offering high quality mental health and developmental support services for underserved Milwaukee families. The clinic supported Next Door families with autism-related concerns and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy. Below is a picture from the clinic’s grand opening in January 2020.



# Next Door Heroes

## Carolyn Porter Director of Operations

Carolyn helped ensure Next Door had precautions in place to keep students and staff as safe as possible in the buildings during the pandemic. She ordered personal protective equipment including over 10,000 pairs of gloves, more than 2,500 face masks and loads of hand sanitizer. Also on her list were new air purifiers, hands-free water stations and a special COVID-19 cleaning solution for the buildings. She embraced these new challenges of 2020. “I love being able to solve problems. Being able to tackle those issues and find ways to make people’s ability to work better during this time is really satisfying to me.”



## Jesse Weathersby Director of Information Technology

Jesse led a team of IT Specialists to ensure Next Door staff and families stayed well-connected during the pandemic. They prepared approximately 650 iPads and Chromebooks for families in our virtual learning program and offered parents tutorials and technical assistance. They equipped staff with approximately 200 laptops, ran training on virtual platforms to maintain department and agency-wide communication and even offered technical support for Internet issues at home. “My team really stepped up and went that extra mile. If we knew some staff needed support after hours, we made sure we adjusted our schedule so we could provide it.”



## Marie Parker Nutrition Services

Marie said 2020 allowed her to expand her role and help students and staff eat well during a challenging time. She introduced new seasonal menus for the children with more fresh fruit and vegetables and whole grain-rich items. She started outreach to parents with picky eaters and developed a nutrition program for classrooms to make their daily snacks. Through an employee social network, Marie offered recipes for staff and co-authored a monthly nutrition newsletter. “For me, job satisfaction went way up because I’m able to do these things. I feel my work here is more meaningful than any job I’ve ever had.”



## Darlene Grant KEEP Committee

Darlene helped make 2020 more fun at Next Door! She works with a team of staff members on programs to boost employee morale on Next Door’s KEEP (Keep Employees Engaged as Partners) Committee. This year, Darlene co-hosted several engaging contests during virtual all-staff meetings featuring trivia, mask decorating and ugly holiday sweaters. More positive engagement came through an employee social network, a book club and spirit days. “I love putting a smile on employees’ faces and am honored to be a part of a committee that helps to build morale and has the support of leadership to keep employees engaged.”



# Next Door's Home-Based Program

Realizing not all families wish to come to our centers for services, Next Door offers a Home-Based Visitation program with prenatal services and early childhood education to meet families where they are. Our Parent Educators work with more than 160 families and equip them with critical guidance and resources to help build bright futures for their families.

We started 2020 operating this program in-person and later transitioned to virtual sessions with families when COVID-19 hit. Our Parent Educators offered their traditional support services along with additional assistance to help families during the pandemic.

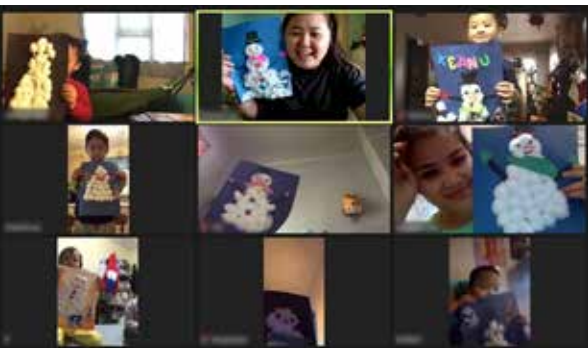
## Serving Expectant Mothers

- Support throughout pregnancy, delivery and transition to parenthood
- Weekly visits from Parent Educators
- Guidance on building strong families and relationships with children
- Breastfeeding support and safe sleeping education
- Connections to doctors, doulas and mental health services
- Community resources like housing, employment, food and baby supplies
- Opportunities to connect and socialize with other expectant mothers (held virtually during COVID-19)
- Safe home deliveries of food, diapers, wipes and holiday gifts during COVID-19



## Serving Families

- Weekly visits from Parent Educators
- Early childhood education in English, Spanish, Hmong, Burmese and Karen
- Guidance for parents to teach children at home
- Medical/dental support to ensure up-to-date child screenings
- Support for students with special needs
- Community resources like housing, employment, food and clothing
- Family socialization events (held virtually during COVID-19)
- Safe home deliveries of food, diapers, wipes, educational supplies, technology and holiday gifts during COVID-19



# Investing in Next Door Staff

One of our strategic goals for Next Door is to be an employer of choice among nonprofit organizations in Milwaukee. During our 2019-2020 fiscal year, we implemented nearly 60 opportunities for employees to enjoy new benefits, professional development, feedback sessions, wellness programming, staff appreciation events and more.



MILWAUKEE BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**B P t W**  
 2020 BEST PLACES TO WORK

The Milwaukee Business Journal selected Next Door as one of its 2020 “Best Places to Work.” This program honors companies and organizations based on high rankings from employee surveys. Next Door earned its recognition in the Extra-Large Category (200 or more employees) and was the only nonprofit organization in the group.



# Child Care Partnership

As part of Next Door’s outreach into the community, the agency leads a federal grant program working to increase access to high quality early childhood education for Milwaukee families.

The grant program started in 2015 featuring an Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (CCP). Today, CCP spans nine early childhood organizations with 11 sites across Milwaukee County.

Next Door deploys a team of instructional coaches at each site, offering teachers mentorship and professional development to help raise the quality of learning and care in their classroom. The CCP program also provides Next Door Family Advocates who work closely with families to ensure they have access to important community resources like medical and dental screenings.

In the 2019-2020 school year, the partnership program expanded to include older Head Start children (ages 3-5). Overall, this program allows Next Door to directly reach 330 children across 60 classrooms and indirectly impact 1,400 additional children at the partner sites.



## CCP Family Success

For four years, Shapayl Parker’s family attended COA Youth and Family Centers – one of Next Door’s 11 CCP sites. Her son Brandon started there at just six weeks old and the learning started right away.

“I can remember when he was just like a little baby learning how to crawl, (the teacher) would always sit on the ground with him with a book in front of him and he would be trying to turn the page,” Shapayl said.

Overtime, Shapayl said Brandon improved his communication skills and became more outgoing and in control of his emotions. She said teachers helped her daughter Kamaria boost her self-confidence. Shapayl grew, too, thanks to Next Door family advocates who support families at the partner sites.

“She pushed me to advocate for my kids and to stand up for what I believe in,” Shapayl said.

One of the ways Shapayl became a stronger parent is by joining Next Door’s Policy Council - a Head Start governing

body of parents who vote on Next Door business and promote family engagement. **In 2020, Shapayl served as council president and a parent representative on Next Door’s Board of Directors.**

“I have to be thankful from where I came from and CCP is where I came from. I wouldn’t be where I am if I didn’t have that experience.”



# Partner Spotlights

In 2020, Next Door collaborated with more than 30 local and national partners to offer valuable resources that enhance the high quality early childhood education experience for our children and families. Below are a few highlights.

## Educare Learning Network

In 2020, Next Door marked 15 years as part of the Educare Learning Network. The network of 25 schools nationwide offers a best practice, research-driven model for high quality early childhood education for children from under-resourced families. Since opening the Educare Milwaukee school in 2005, we have spread the Educare model across our entire early childhood programming. The Buffett Early Childhood Fund and Start Early are two principal partners of this network.



## Next Step Clinic

The Next Step Clinic is part of Next Door’s Family Success Center. Run by community partners Mental America of Wisconsin and Marquette University, the clinic offers high quality mental health and developmental support services for both Next Door families and residents from underserved areas in the city. The clinic ran telehealth programming without any interruption to client services during the pandemic. The clinic also won the 2020 Nonprofit Collaboration of the Year Award from the BizTimes Nonprofit Excellence Awards program.



## 414 Fellowship

Next Door works with 30 Marquette University students in the 414 Fellowship program from AmeriCorps and Serve Wisconsin. The 414 Fellows work in Next Door classrooms with a focus on supporting literacy and language development for children ages zero to three. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the fellows supported students through virtual classroom lessons, recorded story time, handwritten motivational letters and book preparation and distribution with our Books for Kids program.



## University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Next Door partners with University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to support student assessments across our early childhood programming. Their research provides us with critical data to evaluate our learning experiences for children. University professors and graduate students participate in the research, which has included studies of literacy concepts like letter naming, vocabulary words and rhyming, and social emotional learning through reading.



Courtesy of UWM



# Improving our Learning Environments

One of the bright spots of 2020 came in the form of beautiful building renovations at Next Door! The renovations at our 29th Street campus were part of a fundraising campaign in honor of Next Door's 50th Anniversary in 2019. Donors contributed \$1.2 million toward this effort. We're grateful for their generosity and the opportunity to enhance the learning environment for our students and families. While we will officially unveil these spaces in 2021, here's a sneak peek.



A renovation of our Books for Kids Library is underway to create a rainforest-themed space for our Read with Me program and book distribution. There will also be more comfortable seating for volunteers, better acoustics and new shelving.



A renovation to one of our indoor play areas is underway to create an interactive "Under the Sea" experience for our infants and toddlers. The space and equipment will help promote gross motor development through reaching, grasping, crawling, climbing, balancing and walking.



A renovation to a second indoor play area is underway to create an interactive "Outer Space" experience for our preschool students. The space and equipment will encourage gross motor development through running, climbing and balancing, plus important social play.



Our Family Engagement Center will create a new place for parents to connect with Next Door staff in a casual, café-style environment. The space will offer both one-on-one meetings with members of our Family Services team as well as group meetings and trainings for parents.

# Improving our Learning Environments

## Celebrating our 50th Anniversary Donors!

Beginning with the dedicated individuals from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, through decades of providing services to their neighborhood, to today as we serve nearly 1,400 families each year – community leadership and support has been the common thread.

We extend our gratitude to those who made generous gifts to our 50th Anniversary Campaign – to support multiple years of programming, to create a new learning environment at our 29th Street campus, and for our memorable milestone celebration. Thank you for such a heartwarming 50th Anniversary year!



Our children and teachers can interact with new educational hallway art as they pass by. Displays include discussion questions on various learning concepts like letters, shapes, food and animals.



We're celebrating the achievements of prominent African American figures in this colorful new tribute display. It features 12 profiles of history-making individuals from areas like politics, civil rights, law, space exploration and entertainment.

- \$500,000 and Above**  
Mary and Ted Kellner - Kelben Foundation  
Northwestern Mutual Foundation

**\$100,000-\$299,999**  
Harley-Davidson Foundation  
Helwig Carbon Products  
Brook and Robin Lopez and the National Basketball Players Association Foundation  
Payne and Dolan

**\$75,000-\$99,999**  
Herzfeld Foundation  
Suzanne and Richard Pieper  
Shirley M. & Roger H. Schroeder

**\$50,000-\$74,999**  
Donna and Donald Baumgartner  
Linda and Michael Groth  
Matthew and Brenda Levatich  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Bert L. & Patricia S. Steigleder Charitable Trust  
William Stark Jones Foundation  
Bob and Brenda VanHimbergen

**\$25,000-\$49,999**  
Lynn and Chuck Barney  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Ildy and Skip Poliner Fund  
Ian and Katherine Lambert  
Marge and Steve Laughlin

**\$10,000-\$24,999**  
A.O. Smith Foundation  
Joan and Peter Bruce  
Bob and Sarah Duncan  
Ralph Evinrude Foundation  
Johnson Controls Foundation  
Herb Kohl Philanthropies  
Bill and Marian Nasgovitz  
Larry and Jeanne Prochnow  
Julie and Mason Ross
- Neil & Terri Siegel Family  
Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation  
Weiss Family Foundation

**\$5,000-\$9,999**  
A Friend of Next Door  
Kay and Fred Austermann  
Buffett Early Childhood Fund  
Vicky and Benjamin Cordani  
Ann and Jon Hammes  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Burns-Schrader Family Fund  
Charles and Brunetta Matthews  
Milwaukee Bucks  
Nancy and Michael Roos  
Peggy and Bob Schuermann  
Molly and Mike Shapiro  
Tracey and Geoffrey Sparrow  
Quarles & Brady LLP  
Townsend Foundation  
Walbec Group  
We Energies Foundation  
Weyco Group

**\$2,500-4,999**  
Cindy Benning  
Children's Wisconsin  
Susan and Thomas Doyle  
Gruber Law Offices, LLC  
Bradley Jansen  
Mr. and Mrs. B. Robert Kill  
Natasha King  
Mary Ann and Charles LaBahn  
ManpowerGroup  
Joe and Laura Mantoan  
Rexnord  
Park Bank Foundation  
Dan and Mary Schroeder  
US Bank  
Thora Vervoren  
We Energies  
James and Gracia Willis



# Giving Books to Children for 30 years!

Next Door's Books for Kids program marked a major milestone in 2020 - 30 years of distributing free books to children in Milwaukee and helping them build their home libraries.

We thank everyone who has been a part of this program over three decades - program founders, book drive hosts, individual donors, Read with Me volunteers and book cleaners. You have all made an invaluable contribution to a child's life through the magical gift of reading!

While 2020 was a challenging year, the community still came out in many ways to support Books for Kids. Below are some highlights.



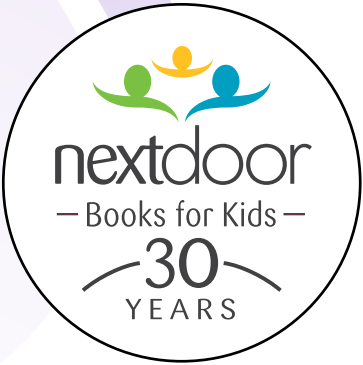
### Blocks for Books

Brook and Robin Lopez with the Milwaukee Bucks selected Next Door as the beneficiary of its Blocks for Books program. They donated \$100 for every block they made during the season to help Next Door buy books for kids. They also read stories to our students during a special visit in February. The brothers' generosity led to a matching gift for Next Door from the National Basketball Players Association Foundation. Together, their support totaled more than \$110,000 for Books for Kids.



### Online Read with Me

We had to suspend our in-person Read with Me program because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But that didn't stop our volunteers and other community members from supporting our children. A total of 75 readers participated in our online Read with Me program, recording 80 stories to share with our children and families during the Safer at Home order in the spring and throughout the year.



### Book Cleaning from Home

Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, we couldn't welcome volunteers into our buildings to clean and repair the donated books we receive for Next Door's Books for Kids program. A crew of our regular volunteers and their families helped us out from home through safe, contact-free procedures to pick up and drop off books. They cleaned and repaired more than 15,000 books!



### Summerfest Book Drive

On October 10th, Summerfest hosted a Drive-Up Donation event benefiting two local organizations including Next Door. Summerfest invited community members to donate new and gently-used books to our Books for Kids program in exchange for a free ticket to Summerfest 2021. We received a total of 2,685 books!



To learn more about Books for Kids and get involved, scan the QR code or visit [NextDoorMKE.org/get-involved](https://NextDoorMKE.org/get-involved)

# Thanks To Our Community

We are so grateful for the outpouring of community generosity in 2020. During this unprecedented and challenging year, donors, volunteers and community members came out to support Next Door in so many important ways. Your outreach lifted our spirits and gave us hope during a trying time. We thank you all for your special contributions this year. Below is a look at some of your amazing support!

### Virtual Walk for Children

To stay safe during this year's Walk for Children, we hosted a virtual event May 18-22, 2020. We thank Harley-Davidson Foundation for serving as our Presenting Sponsor. With the community's support, we far surpassed our goal of miles walked and enjoyed a fun, virtual celebration for Next Door families at the end of the walk.



### Emergency Needs Support

To help keep Next Door families stocked with the basics during the pandemic, community members and corporations purchased household supplies, food and personal hygiene products from our Amazon Wish List. We collected more than 1,600 items.



### Holiday Gift Giving

Community support during the holidays didn't slow down with the pandemic. Thanks to local families, community organizations, congregations and corporations, we were able to ensure more than 900 Next Door students had gifts to open this holiday season!



Physicians Realty Trust

### Community Shout-Outs

We want to give a special thanks to our local leaders, community partners and volunteers who offered special shout-outs to Next Door staff during our virtual all-staff meeting to kick off the 2020-2021 school year. We had 22 individuals record videos with sweet and inspiring messages.



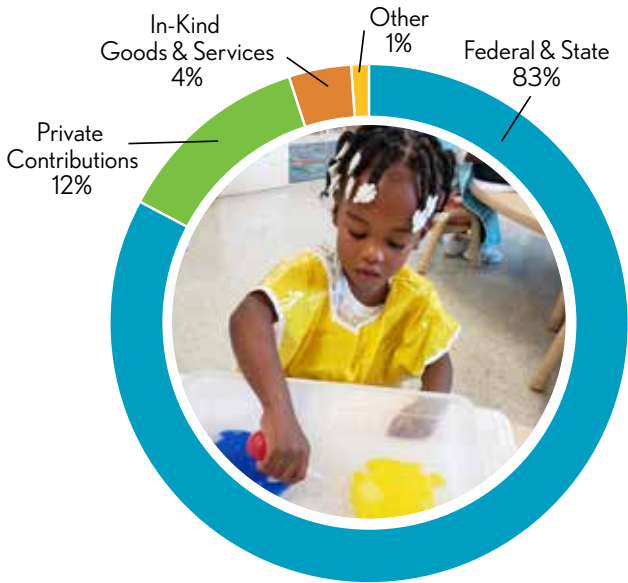


# 2019-2020 Financial Outcomes

## 2019-2020 Operating Revenue

Year Ended June 30, 2020

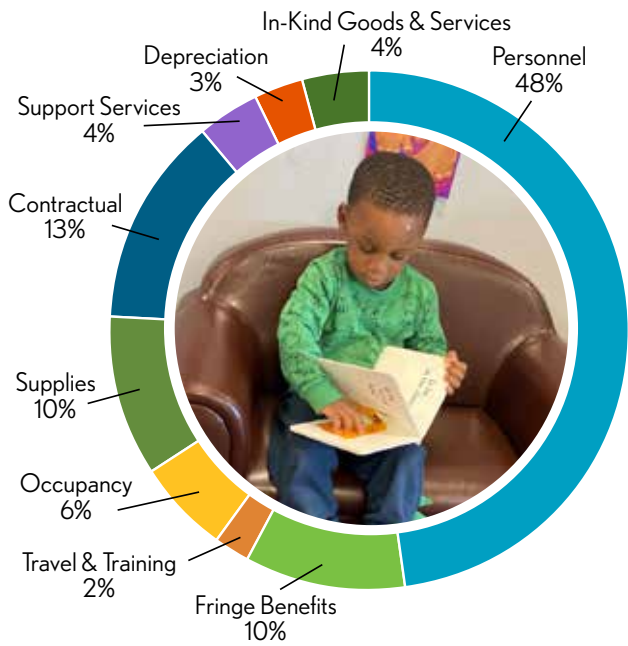
Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage
Federal & State	\$20,406,951	83%
Private Contributions	3,002,812	12%
In-Kind Goods & Services	1,028,017	4%
Other	217,236	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,655,016</b>	<b>100%</b>



## 2019-2020 Operating Expense

Year Ended June 30, 2020

Operating Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Personnel	\$11,747,533	48%
Fringe Benefits	2,474,822	10%
Travel & Training	345,421	2%
Occupancy	1,523,312	6%
Supplies	2,504,446	10%
Contractual	3,112,311	13%
Support Services	924,023	4%
Depreciation	652,664	3%
In-Kind Goods/Services	1,028,017	4%
Other	7,859	<1%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$24,320,408</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Tribute Donations

Many donors make gifts in honor or in memory of those they care about. These gifts are a meaningful way to both pay tribute to their loved ones and to help children get a strong start to life. We thank these donors for their special contributions to Next Door. The following gifts were made between January 1 and December 31, 2020.

<b>In Honor of Charlotte Adashek and Agie Laev's 70-Year Friendship</b> A Friend of Next Door	<b>Memory of Francis R. Croak</b> Judith Croak	<b>In Honor of Joyce Koenitzer</b> Judith and Paul McGhee	<b>In Honor of Mikey Riesch</b> R&R Insurance Services, Inc.
<b>In Honor of Joan Aker</b> A Friend of Next Door	<b>In Honor of Cristina Crogan</b> Mary and James Conlon	<b>In Memory of Emma Holly Lankford</b> Lorraine Gardner	<b>In Honor of Kristin Ross</b> Laura Haugen
<b>In Honor of Joanna Amos</b> Natasha Mortazavi	<b>In Honor of Linda Davis</b> Holden Brooks	<b>In Honor of Don and Chris Leutner</b> Ross and Jeanne Paulus	<b>In Honor of MaryNell H. Ryan</b> The Kubale Family Foundation
<b>In Honor of Joy and Steve Appel's 60th Anniversary</b> Marlene Seinfeld	<b>In Honor of EWI Milwaukee Chapter</b> Cynthia Kunze	<b>In Memory of Lorraine Lombardi</b> Suzanne Sprenger	<b>In Honor of Dale Schmitz</b> Tyler Schmitz
<b>In Memory of Joe Baker</b> Janice Navarro	<b>In Honor of Andy Feiring</b> Florence Steinberger	<b>In Honor of Tony Marchese</b> Gina Marchese	<b>In Honor of Jill Slaight</b> Charles Kemp
<b>In Memory of Chris Bauer</b> AAA Club Partners AAA National Office Helen Bechthold John and Maija Bentley Brad Binkowski James and Mary Connelly Dr. Gregory and Jean Custer Jon and Ann Hammes Kari Johnston Mary and Ted Kellner James and Janet McKenna James and Suzette Miller Gerrit and Patricia Ostermick Steven and Maryann Radowski Alden and Gustavus Taylor Madonna and Jay Williams Aimee Wittman Jamie Zanios	<b>In Honor of Mark Filmanowicz</b> Joanne Filmanowicz	<b>In Honor of Susan McConnell</b> Andrew and Susan McConnell	<b>In Memory of Joan Sparrow</b> Katherine and Charles Heller Elizabeth Kernahan Alexis Kill Rob Kill Mr. and Mrs. B. Robert Kill Margaret Hofstetter Wanda and John Moats Dr. Edwin Montgomery
	<b>In Memory of George Floyd</b> Elizabeth Walker	<b>In Honor of The Meadows Family</b> Emily Cottrell	<b>In Memory of Mary Jo Montgomery</b> Margaret Hofstetter Wanda and John Moats Dr. Edwin Montgomery
	<b>In Memory of Royal and Donna Gordon</b> Nicoll Reavis	<b>In Honor of All Next Door Staff</b> Thomas and Diane Arenberg	<b>In Honor of Sarah and Mike Stanek's Wedding</b> Janet Binder Marie Connelly Steven Stark
	<b>In Honor of Todd Gordon</b> Nicoll Reavis	<b>In Honor of Nora and Eliza</b> Norene and Charles Giuliani	<b>In Honor of Claire Stetson</b> Kathryn Hein
	<b>In Memory of Marion Gratz</b> Cynthia Kunze	<b>In Honor of Sandy Norris</b> Paige Heald	<b>In Honor of Katy Steudel</b> Jill Slaight
	<b>In Honor of Linda Groth</b> Lucy Clancy Peter and Jodi Ells Gina Kurtz	<b>In Honor of North Shore Presbyterian Church and Congregation Shalom</b> Patrice Olin	<b>In Honor of Abigail Sullivan</b> Robert and Abigail Sullivan
<b>In Honor of Linda Behlke</b> So-Hi-Do LLC	<b>In Honor of Kathy Housiaux</b> Deidre Martin Mark G. and Julia Winkler Petri Fund	<b>In Honor of Northwestern Mutual Change Management Center of Excellence Team</b> Rachel McKain	<b>In Honor of James and Gracia Willis</b> Laura Simdon
<b>In Memory of Paul and Helen Berberet</b> The Wilson/Berberet Family Gift Fund	<b>In Honor of John and Kathy Housiaux</b> Douglas and Sue Erlacher	<b>In Honor of Elizabeth Nowakowski</b> Quarles & Brady LLP	<b>In Honor of the Wilson Family</b> Eric Wilson
<b>In Honor of Mike and Donna Brady</b> Kevin Brady	<b>In Memory of Mrs. Freddie Jackson</b> Lorri Easterly Carmen Jackson Joycelyn Jackson	<b>In Memory of Neyaka Oliver</b> Cathy Schwab	<b>In Honor of John, Lisa and Alexis Wilson at Christmas</b> James and Catherine Wilson
<b>In Memory of Barry Bruskin</b> Congregation Shalom	<b>In Memory of Doris J. Jende</b> Jeri Jende	<b>In Honor of Ozaukee Congregational Church</b> June Burkeen	<b>In Memory of George &amp; Irene Wilson</b> The Wilson/Berberet Family Gift Fund
<b>In Honor of Kenneth Brzenk</b> Torrie Boduch David Bokan	<b>In Memory of Lena Jenison</b> Anna Jenison	<b>In Memory of Leondra Patton-Wright</b> Amy Waldman	<b>In Honor of Andy York</b> Ben York
<b>In Memory of Henry &amp; Jennie Chan</b> Dr. Carlyle and Patricia Chan	<b>In Honor of John, Isaiah, and Julian</b> Peggy Dixon	<b>In Memory of Pete Peterson</b> Helwig Carbon Products, Inc.	<b>In Memory of Nita Zukrow</b> Alan Zukrow
<b>In Honor of Mary Conlon</b> Benjamin and Eileen Kelly	<b>In Honor of Kevin and Elizabeth Keelan</b> Celia Shaughnessy	<b>In Honor of Alana Pinsky and Gui Curaudeau</b> Amy and Rich Rovin	
<b>In Honor of Cesily Cooper</b> Donna Siegmund	<b>In Honor of Mary Kellner, Former Next Door Board Director</b> Susan Apple	<b>In Memory of Gregory Regan</b> Sandra Regan	
<b>In Honor of Covid-19 Medical Workers</b> Carole DeRubeisIn	<b>In Honor of Mary and Ted Kellner</b> Mason and Julie Ross		



# Thank You to Our Donors

We want to offer our sincere appreciation to Next Door’s generous donors. They represent individuals, families, community foundations and corporations. Their commitment to Next Door’s children helps us ensure our little learners build a strong foundation academically and emotionally and are prepared for success in school. These donors also help us support our students’ families with critical community resources to help them succeed. Here, we recognize all new gifts and pledge installments made between January 1 and December 31, 2020.

**\$250,000+**

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

**\$100,000-\$249,999**

A Friend of Next Door  
Bader Philanthropies  
Herzfeld Foundation  
Mary and Ted Kellner  
Brook and Robin Lopez and  
the National Basketball Players  
Association Foundation

**\$75,000-\$99,999**

Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s  
Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Fund  
Red Nose Day Fund at Comic  
Relief US

**\$50,000-\$74,999**

A Friend of Next Door  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s  
Eleanor G. Buetschli Fund  
Northwestern Mutual Foundation  
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

**\$25,000-\$49,999**

Donald and Donna Baumgartner  
Brady Corporation Foundation  
Joan and Fred Brengel Family  
Foundation  
Four-Four Foundation  
Harley-Davidson Foundation  
Helwig Carbon Products  
Hepburn “Bootstrap” Fund  
Paul and Kathleen Roller  
Payne and Dolan  
Shirley M. & Roger H. Schroeder  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee  
and Waukesha County

**\$10,000-\$24,999**

A Friend of Next Door  
American Family Insurance  
Dreams Foundation  
Thomas and Diane Arenberg  
Dr. Isabel Bader  
Christin Cleaver  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Bob and Linda Davis Family Fund  
Catherine and Walter Lindsay  
Foundation Fund  
Ildy and Skip Poliner Fund  
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Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation  
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Matthew and Brenda Levatich  
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Weiss Family Foundation  
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**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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Stacey and Steven Radke  
Rexnord Foundation  
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**\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Joan Aker  
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Family Foundation Trust

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ManpowerGroup  
Ernest and Sally Micek Family  
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Milwaukee World Festival  
Dr. Edwin Montgomery  
Gregory and Rhonda Oberland  
Rexnord  
Dr. David Shapiro and Dr. Jane  
Hawes  
Townsend Foundation  
Gracia and Jim Willis  
John and Lisa Wilson

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

A Friend of Next Door  
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Michael and Renae Aldana  
Brian and Robin Bloczynski  
Ginny Bowen  
Brookbank Foundation  
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Margaret Nelson  
North Shore Bank -  
Brookfield Square  
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Park Bank Foundation, Inc.  
Pegasus Partners  
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Herbert Quigley and Christine  
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Linda Yeager and John Florsheim  
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**\$500-\$999**

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Paul and Kristi Antonneau  
Gwen and Daniel Armbrust  
William and Marianne Arpe  
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Gloster and Yvonne Current  
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Florence Steinberger  
Myranda Syrjanen  
Kim Tolbert  
Mark and Sue Umhoefer  
Tara Voss  
Bonny Wesson  
White Donor Advised Fund  
John Wierschem and Diane Wais

\* Deceased

## Our Gratitude to Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

The story of Next Door began in 1969 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at 30th Street and Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee. A devoted group of parishioners and clergy saw a need to better serve their neighborhood and expanded an outreach program with numerous services for youth and young adults. They called the program “Next Door” because it was in a former parsonage building beside the church.

Over the next two decades, the organization served the needs of the surrounding neighborhood offering adult education, children and youth programs, a home visitation program, a drug and alcohol treatment program, the Hope Apartments, and many more programs. Next Door operated at this location for 22 years before moving to the 29th Street campus and focusing on early childhood education.

After nearly seven decades at 30th Street and Wisconsin Avenue, the congregation closed the church at the end of 2020 and made a generous donation to Next Door. We thank Our Savior’s for this support and for paving the way for us to do the most important work in Milwaukee today!



## 2020 Next Door Board of Directors

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CJS & Associates Consulting

**Quamale Stanton**  
Head Start Parent Representative

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**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.

2545 N. 29th St. • Milwaukee, WI 53210 • 414.562.2929 • [www.NextDoorMKE.org](http://www.NextDoorMKE.org)

