



2020 Report to the Community



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.

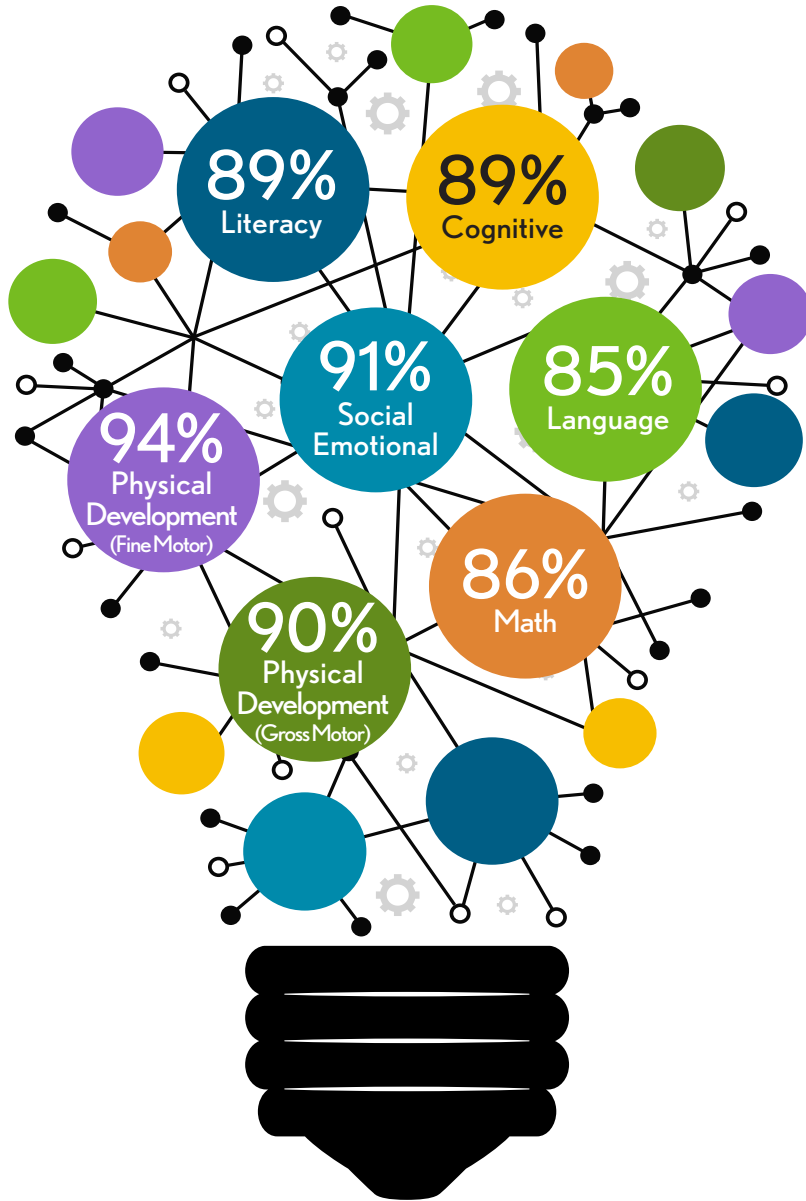
One of the biggest lessons from 2020 for Kamonti and Adriel, Sr., came from witnessing just how much their children love Next Door.

“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.



Student and Program Outcomes

Early Head Start & Head Start Children Meeting Developmental Benchmarks



1,427
Children Served

1,300
Families Served

80%
of children served living in poverty or categorically eligible

94%
Average Monthly Enrollment

847
Parent Volunteers

29,438
Parent Volunteer Hours

*The information presented below represents student outcomes from our School Readiness Report for Winter 2019-2020. The data includes outcomes from across our entire programming – center-based, home-based, and 11 Early Head Start Child Care Partnership sites. Due to the impact of COVID-19 and PIR not being required of grantees in the 2019-20 program year, further data is not available. We do offer a look at our work serving children and families during the pandemic in the following pages.

*The program outcomes presented above reflect a period from the fall of 2019 through approximately mid-March 2020. Due to the impact of COVID-19 and PIR not being required of grantees in the 2019-20 program year, further data is not available. Due to PIR not being required, as well as families' inability to access preventative care services during mandated quarantine periods in the state of Wisconsin, data on dental and medical homes is not included in this year's report. Lastly, please note that 20% of families served fall either between 101-130% above poverty level or are above 130% and demonstrated a need for services.

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



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.

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

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."



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.'"



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."

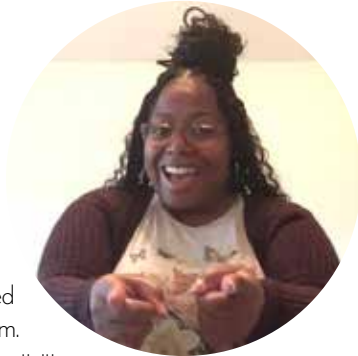


Next Door Heroes

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

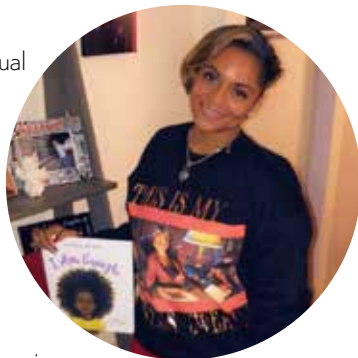
LaJuana taught some of Next Door's youngest learners – ages 1 and 2 – in virtual sessions every day. They met one-on-one over Zoom with the child's parent and often started singing a song followed by an activity. She sent materials to students' homes that they could use together like books, paint and 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.

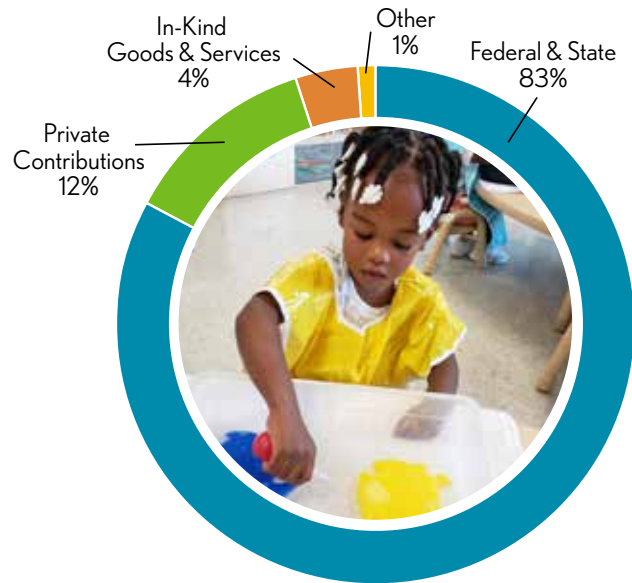


2019-2020 Financial Outcomes

2019-2020 Operating Revenue

Year Ended June 30, 2020

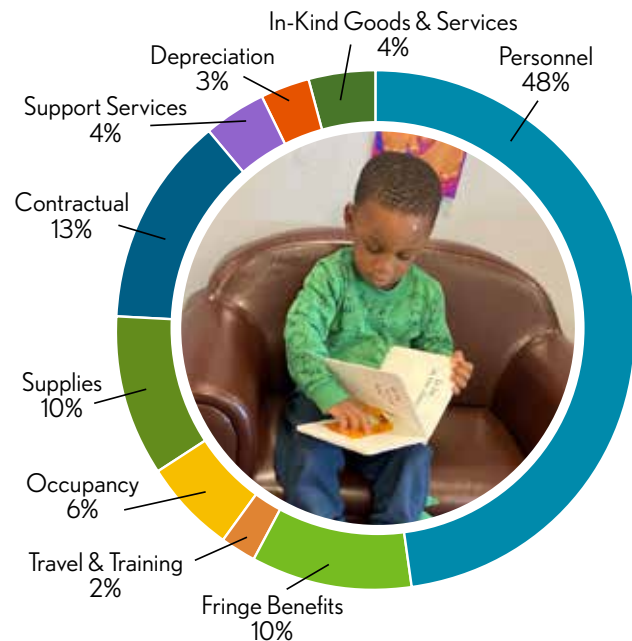
Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage
Federal & State	\$20,406,951	83%
Private Contributions	3,002,812	12%
In-Kind Goods & Services	1,028,017	4%
Other	217,236	1%
TOTAL	\$24,655,016	100%



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%
Total Expenditures	\$24,320,408	100%



Federal Review

The outcome of the Federal Monitoring Review for 2019-2020 indicated that Next Door was in full compliance with the Head Start/Early Head Start program and performance standards, regulations and policy requirements.

Independent Federal Audit

Next Door continues to demonstrate strong financial and operational controls. The agency-wide audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, continued a determination of low risk audit status.

2020-2021 Next Door Budget

Operating Budget

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage
Federal and State	\$21,441,669	90%
Private Contributions	\$2,000,000	8%
In-Kind	\$200,000	1%
Other	\$237,809	1%
Total Revenue	\$23,879,478	100.0%

Operating Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Personnel	\$12,198,766	49%
Fringe Benefits	\$3,373,415	14%
Travel/Training	\$308,196	1%
Occupancy	\$1,491,928	6%
Equipment & Supplies	\$652,769	4%
Contractual	\$3,582,265	14%
Operational Activities	\$350,283	1%
CARES Act Expense	\$1,150,246	5%
Depreciation	\$606,000	2%
In-Kind	\$200,000	1%
Other	\$762,785	3%
Total Expenditures	\$24,676,653	100%

Next Door Foundation receives voluntary philanthropic contributions from the community. These contributions are solicited through grant proposals, individual major gift proposals, mailed and emailed appeals, social media appeals, and from sponsorship, registration and donations to our annual Walk for Children and other events. Contributions are used for operational and programming support, including our early childhood education programs, professional development, family services, mental health, and Books for Kids.

*Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, In-Kind figures are significantly lower than they have been in past years. For safety precautions, we were unable to have volunteers in our buildings to participate in programming during this fiscal year.

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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.

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