



# Bright Futures

## 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.

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## Letter from the President

One of the most concerning parts of the past year has been the impact of the pandemic on student learning and engagement across our city. We've worked hard to accommodate Next Door families with a mix of in-person and virtual programs, however, we know that's not enough to fully prepare our children for school.

To best serve our students, we're currently developing an Accelerating Equity Plan to guide us toward full, in-person operations for the 2021-2022 school year above and beyond what we've done in the past.

More details on the plan are inside.

I'm also excited to announce some beautiful changes at our 29th Street campus. We completed much-needed renovations in our Books for Kids Library, two indoor play spaces, a Parent Engagement Center and hallways.

These improvements will greatly impact student learning and development opportunities and strengthen our connections with parents. Photos of the renovations

are inside.

We continue to be grateful for the community generosity during these challenging times. One major highlight comes from Brook Lopez with the Milwaukee Bucks and his Blocks for Books program. Brook is donating \$200 for every block he makes this season to help Next Door buy books for our Books for Kids program.

We thank Brook, the Bucks and all of you who have reached out over the past year and helped Next Door continue doing the most important work in Milwaukee today!

**Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.**  
Next Door President

## MCW Partnership Supports Vaccination Efforts for Next Door

We want to give a special thanks to one of our strong community partners – Medical College of Wisconsin. Over the past few months, MCW professors and staff have participated in multiple All Staff meetings to share important education about the nature of COVID-19, vaccine eligibility, effectiveness and concerns, and federal guidelines for vaccinated people.

Starting in March – when teachers and staff working in education were permitted to start receiving the vaccine – MCW went a step further and offered Next Door employees a chance to schedule their vaccinations on their campus. Some of our employees, like those pictured here, are serving as "Vaccine Champions" at Next Door and sharing their experiences with staff.



## Improving our Learning Environments: 29th Street Renovations

We're excited to unveil the results of major renovation projects at Next Door's 29th Street campus! As part of Next Door's 50th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign in 2019, we raised \$1.2 million to support much-needed improvements to the spaces highlighted below.

We're grateful for the community generosity that enabled us to enhance our learning environment, student development and support system for our parents. For more details on the renovations, videos and more photos, scan the QR code or visit [NextDoorMKE.org/Renovations](http://NextDoorMKE.org/Renovations)



Books for Kids Library



Under the Sea Play Area



Outer Space Play Area



Parent Engagement Center



Interactive Hallway Art



African American Tribute Display

## Preparing for the Fall: Next Door's Accelerating Equity Plan



Next Door's response to the pandemic was swift and supportive. However, we know that our children's learning and development has still been impacted as many of them lost out on critical in-person learning over the past year. In addition, our students, parents and staff may have experienced trauma as a result of stresses tied to the pandemic.

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, we will continue to maintain our high quality early childhood education programs and family support services. However, we will greatly enhance the experience with an Accelerating Equity Plan that will transition Next Door to 100% in-person operations for our two center-based locations and home visitation program.

The plan includes a host of academic and social-emotional resources to ensure our students, families and staff have the support they need during this significant transition back. We will continue to maintain extensive safety

precautions in our buildings and require safety precautions for our home visiting staff.

### Focus Areas

- One-on-one tutors for older students
- Summer school program for K4 students
- Enhanced enrichment programs including library, art, music, physical education and virtual reality
- Expanded mental health support
- Continued focus on personal/professional support for staff

**Virtual Walk for Children**  
May 22 - 28, 2021

Looking for a fun way to help Next Door children and families?  
Register NOW!

- Walk, run, or ride a mile for a child
- Participants who raise \$100 or more receive a Walk for Children t-shirt
- All proceeds benefit Next Door's mission to build stronger families through education
- To register go to [NextDoorMKE.org/WalkForChildren2021](http://NextDoorMKE.org/WalkForChildren2021) or scan the QR code

**Books for Kids 30th Birthday Celebration!**  
July 12-July 23, 2021

Support Next Door with books for kids and help build a child's home library!

- Donate books from home
- Host a book drive
- Shop our Amazon Wish List for specially curated books
- Spread the word on social media using the hashtag #books4kids
- Ask friends to make a donation
- For more information visit [NextDoorMKE.org/B4K30](http://NextDoorMKE.org/B4K30)



Next Door Foundation  
2545 N. 29th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53210



## Back to the Library!

Next Door students are returning to our Books for Kids libraries this spring after some time away for safety protocols during the pandemic. The children are getting a chance to enjoy story time from our staff and select a free book to build their home library. Pictured here is Ms. Priscilla reading to her student, Willie.

