



Bright Futures

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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

I hope you are having a strong and healthy start to the New Year.

In 2022, we continue our Accelerating Equity Initiative to support our students in their return to in-person learning and to help offset the impact of the pandemic on their development. The initiative maintains Next Door's high quality early childhood education with a series of academic, social-emotional and physical health enhancements.

We have conducted assessments of our students and developed clear data on where they are with developmental benchmarks. We are responding with age-appropriate, individualized intervention like Reading Specialists supporting children with greater literacy needs. Our Positive Behavior Support Team works with children struggling with emotional regulation and social skills. Read more inside.

We are also expanding community partnerships and offering innovative education including:

- A robotics program for K5 students to build a variety of academic and life skills
- A partnership with Wisconsin Conservatory of Music offering musical activities to foster cognitive development for infants and toddlers
- A partnership with Ignite Child Development offering one-on-one assistance for children with autism and behavioral issues

I also want to thank our community supporters who showed tremendous generosity for Next Door as we wrapped up 2021. From financial donations to holiday gifts for our children, we are grateful for your outreach and compassion. You are all helping Next Door do the most important work in Milwaukee!

Tracey Sparrow, Ed.D.
Next Door President

Next Door's New Pathways Program

Pathways is a new career advancement initiative working to combat the teacher shortage and build our local workforce with a talented pipeline of early learning professionals. The program offers five

channels to enter the field and pursue advanced degrees – all funded by Next Door. The Pathways include coursework at Milwaukee Area Technical College plus coaching, wellness support and technology assistance.



- **Pre-Apprentice pathway** offering immediate hiring and training as an Assistant Teacher for newcomers to the field
- **Dual-enrollment pathway** for high school seniors to earn an early childhood credential
- **Two Associate's degree pathways** for Next Door staff
- **A State Apprenticeship pathway** to earn an Early Childhood Technical Diploma

Thanks to Our Community!

As we closed out 2021, Next Door supporters stepped up generously with holiday gifts, book donations and more for our children and families. We thank everyone for these valuable and heartwarming contributions.

Holiday Gift Giving

- All Next Door students – just over 1,000 children – received gifts
- 76 Next Door families received gifts for their entire family
- Gifts included toys, games, books, winter gear and more



Next Door's Book Challenge

- 489 new books donated through a community challenge program
- Donations included board books, picture books and multicultural books to help our students build home libraries



"If You Give a Child a Book"

- A literacy campaign from TMJ4 News and Scripps Howard Foundation raised just over \$13,500 to support our Books for Kids program
- Proceeds went toward a book fair (pictured) with free books for children



Support Next Door in the New Year!

www.nextdoormke.org/get-involved/special-events

Amazon Wish List

Purchase books for Next Door children and help them build home libraries. Includes multicultural books for our children to see themselves in the stories.



Coats for Kids

Purchase a coat to help keep our children warm this winter.



Family Kit Wish List

Purchase personal hygiene/household products to support Next Door families. Items include: baby grooming kits, toothpaste/toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, dish soap and toilet paper.



Accelerating Equity at Next Door

With innovation and ambition, the Next Door team is working to ensure every child with us – ages birth to five – has the support they need in the transition back to in-person learning this school year.

Our work is driven by our Accelerating Equity Initiative, which includes an increased focus on individualized support for children in academics, mental health and special education.

We currently have a mix of staff specialists, community volunteers and fellows – all providing critical intervention for children needing additional assistance. They are meeting with students multiple times a week both in and outside of the classroom. Below is a closer look at our expanded support system in the new year.

Reading Specialists



Gabe works with children as many as five times a week in all areas of literacy development.

Accelerators



Kiarra is a volunteer tutor from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She works with our older students in core areas like literacy and math.

Leading Men Fellows



Ahmad is a Leading Men Fellow with The Literacy Lab. He engages children in literacy lessons and offers a positive male role model in the classroom.

Social Emotional Work Groups



Jennifer is our Mental Health Supervisor who meets with our K5 students in small groups to read, talk and journal about feelings.

Positive Behavior Support Team



Brittany works with children to help them overcome struggles with emotional regulation in class and at home.

Special Education Support



Kate is a Speech Language Pathologist who helps children overcome communication challenges.



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Meet Luke Lu, Lucas Lu and their Dad!



This family is part of Next Door's home-based early childhood education program. They attended our family engagement event – "A December to Remember" – where they took this beautiful holiday photo. They also received at-home learning activities, holiday baking mixes and some winter gear to stay warm!