



Padua Ponderings

Fall 2020

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Mission Statement

The Padua Center, sponsored by St. Martin de Porres parish, is a Christian community-based presence reaching out by empowering people at all stages of life to achieve their maximum potential through education, counseling, support and community involvement.

Vision

The Vision of the Padua Center is a neighborhood free of commercial sex trafficking, and drugs (use and supply), beautified by the people actively engaged in community and self-growth.

Principles

- Umoja*—unity
- Imani*—faith
- Kujichagulia*—Self-determination
- Ujima*—collective work
- Ujamaa*—cooperative economics
- Nia*—purpose
- Kuumba*—creativity

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Peaces of Art 2020 Event

This year Peaces of Art takes place on the BetterWorld Auction website from September 20 until October 11, 2020. You will be able to view artworks and bid on those pieces that appeal to you.

For Kay Shrewsbury, the requirement to stay at home during the COVID-19 outbreak became



a most productive time. She produced

these two beautiful counted cross-stitch artworks. Both pieces come framed and ready for hanging in your favorite place. These items and other auction items will be open for bids beginning September 20, 2020. Bids will close on October 11, 2020



at 5:30 PM when the Board presents the Padua Promoter Award.

In addition, Chicken Dinners will be available on September 20, 2020 from 12:00-5:00 PM. You can pick them up from St. Martin de Porres located at 1119 West Bancroft on the corner of Bancroft and Detroit Avenues.

Chicken Dinner

A variety of dishes will be available for purchase:

- Barbecue Chicken
- Baked Beans
- Potato Salad
- Cupcake



We hope you will support the work of Padua Center by participating in the online auction and chicken dinner.

Connecting Kids to Meals Provides Daily Lunches

Padua Center reached out to the neighborhood and partnered with Connecting Kids to Meals to offer free lunches to children five days a week with a weekend bag on Friday. Padua Center began this program in March, soon after the shutdown. We continue to daily offer lunch bags to the neighbors.



Thanks are due to United Way volunteers who came to help Sr. Virginia and Avery Cooper with daily lunches. When employees were able to return to work, in May, Bre'Ana Levesque and Kim McFann began to help with lunches. During the summer camps we added the Harbor Youth workers to the roster as lunch time helpers.



Daily the Center serves between 25-40 lunches. On Tuesday, Padua adds a hot sandwich to the menu, and everyone loves Friday because it is Pizza Day! Avery Cooper picks up daily lunches from Connecting Kids to Meals and returns the empty coolers at

the end of the day for refills.

Gardening at Padua Center's Ujima Urban Agriculture Continues

This year, COVID-19 and a late Spring snow delayed the gardening project. Due to the Stay at Home Order, Pathstone Trainees could not work in the garden until July. Instead, Roger Whickum and Sr Virginia got the garden started. Once Janda Burwell returned things in the garden went full speed ahead.



The Cason brothers help assemble the vertical garden.

The greatest challenge this year has come from the rabbits and groundhogs. They certainly are eating well at the Ujima Urban Agriculture! Roger Whickum is working with everyone to figure out ways to keep them out of the garden.



Rep Marcy Kaptur extended an invitation to Isabel Montez, Brian Ellis, and Steve Oswanski to meet with Sister Virginia and to discuss the maximum utilization of the Hoop House. After some preliminary discussions Padua Center decided to use solar panels to provide electricity for watering and cooling the Hoop House. Now we only need to assure funding and implement the plan!

After proper safeguards from groundhogs and rabbits, Padua Center looks forward to a good and productive season in the garden.

Employees and Youth Workers at Summer Camp

Avery Cooper and Bre'Ana Levesque kept the summer camps going with the challenge of COVID-19 and new directives. In June, families came one morning or afternoon a week. Padua Center served ten families for two hours each week. In July, new directives allowed the camps to have nine children. A total of 21 children participated in the summer camps, although never more than nine at a time. A trip to the Sculpture Garden at the Art Museum was a highlight of the summer. Games, fun and just being children (albeit with masks on) was part of the summer, as well as educational activities.



Annabelle and Ashton are working on decorating a birdhouse during summer camp.



Marzellus and Marshun Moore returned to Padua Center this summer to help with the children, serve lunches, and develop gardening skills.

Not much would get done at Padua Center without the guidance of Kim McFann, Administrative Assistant. She is always ready to help. The next big project she will be working on is the Peaces of Art online auction.

Our newest trainee through the Pathstone Program is Denise Hill. Denise comes to the center with much enthusiasm to make Padua Center clean, attractive, and welcoming. Of course, we continue with Janda Burwell in the garden keeping things growing!



Kim McFann



Denise Hill



Janda Burwell



Major Improvements on Padua Center Continue

For several years there was discussion about demolishing St. Anthony Church and possibly Padua Center. During that time, Padua Center received no significant improvements. Now that the future for Padua Center is no longer in question, the Center received a major facelift this past year.

In August 2019, Chittum Painting LLC began painting the exterior of Padua Center. Padua donors were extremely generous and matched a grant from the Andersons Fund Supporting Organization of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation.



Chittum Painting began Padua Center's face lift in August 2019.



Seagate Roofing installed a new roof in March 2020.

The next project was the roof. Seagate Roofing began working in March 2020 to complete a roof replacement for Padua Center. Once again funds donated by long-time supporters matched funds from the Community Economic Development Grant of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

With the painting and roofing completed it was time to reinstall the accessibility ramp previously removed when St. Anthony church was under consideration for demolition. Special thanks to Duane Buck, John Hartigan and Matthew Cornette, Jr of Oak Harbor who came to Padua Center and in three hours had the ramp up and functioning.



Duane Buck, John Hartigan and Matthew Cornett at work to reassemble the ramp.

COVID-19 Program Changes

Padua Board Meetings will take place on Zoom
Padua After School*Stars suspended until further notice.

Kwanzaa Park Update



In February Padua Center discussed ambitious plans for an adult gardening and cooking club. The Kwanzaa Park neighbors were planning on meeting every other Saturday for gardening and for a learning session. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to that. Unfortunately, with the latest number of cases the Kwanzaa Park Neighborhoods have not met. Padua Center is planning a Party in the Park for October 1, 2020. There will also be a meeting in the Ujima Park and Garden for some additional planning and sharing. Please join the Center at 6:00 PM.

Profound Condolences

Padua Center staff offers deep condolences to:

- George Marsh on the death of his wife, Mary Ann Rickus
- Monsignor Michael Billian on the death of his father, Richard Billian
- Phyllis Toney on the death of her brother, LeMark Foster.

May God welcome them into paradise and strengthen those who mourn their loss.

Thanks to Our Donors

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