



# Padua Ponderings

Volume 3, Issue 2: Spring 2009

## Inside This Issue:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Emerging Young Ladies.....  | 1 |
| Grants Funded!.....         | 2 |
| Vision Therapy.....         | 2 |
| Volunteers Work.....        | 3 |
| Gardening.....              | 3 |
| Peacemakers.....            | 4 |
| Urban Chicken Festival..... | 4 |

## 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

The Padua Center  
1416 Nebraska  
Toledo, Ohio 43607  
(419) 241-6465  
www.paduacenter.org

## Emerging Young Ladies Program Funded

The Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio granted our request for funding of the Emerging Young Ladies Program! Padua gave this program twice, but now with funding our pilot program will expand to benefit more young ladies.

Eight to ten young ladies in grades six through eight will be part of the new program scheduled for the Fall of 2009. Meeting together on four Saturdays they will examine their own self identity, their relationships with others, as well as their physical and mental health. They will conclude the program with a session on goal-setting and a plan to achieve their goals. Padua Center will hold a graduation banquet at a local restaurant.



Two emerging young ladies!

In February 2009, Padua offered a second pilot of Emerging Young Ladies program. The Girl Scouts of America partnered with Padua Center to direct two hours of the program with a discussion called, Salvaging Sisterhood. Second Chance, a Toledo social service program, which provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic sex trafficking and prostitution, joined us for a presentation to the young ladies. Involvement from St. Martin de Porres parish, Mercy College, Lourdes College and Padua staff completed the personnel for the sessions.

With this new funding opportunity, we are eager to expand the program in content, availability and in the number of girls involved. Padua plans for graduates of the pilot programs to be leaders in the next session. Field trips and additional opportunities for the young ladies to build support are also in the planning.

## Summer Camps Announced!

- June 15-19 *Vacation Bible School, Grades K-6*
  - June 29-July 3 *Shalom / Peace Camp, Grades 5-8*
  - July 13-17 *Our African American Heroes from Toledo, Grades K-4*
  - July 27-30 *Environmental Camp, Grades K-4*
  - August 10-14 *Artful Experiences, Grades 5-8*
- Please consult the website for details. Registration forms are at the Center. All camps are from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. There is no charge for camp and lunch is free.

## Funding Challenges

One cannot turn on television or listen to the radio without hearing about the economic crisis in our world. The economic downturn also affects Padua Center and plans are in the making to help us weather this rough road.

Padua Center sent out an appeal letter in March that received an overwhelming response. In addition, the Advisory council is sponsoring the first Urban Chicken Festival on May 23. This newsletter includes details on the upcoming festival.

Padua Center submitted grants to The St. Marguerite d'Youville Foundation, the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, the Sisters of St. Francis of Wheaton, the Center for Non-Profit Resources, Lynch Family Foundation, and the local Catholic Campaign for Human Development. The Padua Center received a positive response from the Tiffin Franciscans, the Lynch Family Foundation, and the Center for Non-Profit Resources.

## Center for Non-Profit Resources Awards Grant

As Padua Center looks to the future it is important to establish a strong financial plan. Padua Center submitted a grant to the Center for Non-Profit Resources. The funds from this grant will hire a consultant to assist in the development of a financial plan. Some of the goals Padua plans to accomplish are:

- Identify assets and resources
- Update, refine, and categorize the database
- Provide Board training
- Develop scholarship funds for some of our programs
- Investigate opportunities for contract-based services

Padua Center hired MJ Consulting as consultant. While the Center for Non-Profit Resources did not fund the entire amount requested, Padua will make great progress with this community support.

## Vision Therapy Begins

Thanks to a grant from the St. Marguerite d'Youville Foundation and the encouragement, assistance and expertise of Dr. Jeffery Schmakel and Allison Morgillo, Padua Center completed testing of all the children in the tutoring program and selected those children who will most benefit from the vision therapy.



*How many pencils do you see? Andrea Pryor concentrates during her vision therapy session.*

Although it is hard for the children to understand the advantage of this program, all the statistics confirm that vision therapy will assist in their ability to succeed in school.



*Panella Rivers and Sherry Baker look through the various materials for just the right exercise for the children in the vision therapy sessions.*

The children spend one hour a day in therapy. Panella Rivers and Sherry Baker continue to study and learn all they can about the therapy to help our children.

## More Painting!

After almost thirty months in operation the Padua Center is still undergoing painting and touching up rooms that have seen the test of time. Nevertheless, the rooms are fewer and more difficult. On March 27, eight faculty members of St. John's Jesuit High School spent a morning painting.

Their tasks were difficult and challenging. High stairway ceilings, trim around hallway lockers, and patching crumbling plaster were the tasks of the day.

Fortunately, the dedicated faculty of St. John's also know how to paint, trim, patch and work hard.



Celebrating "St. Ursula's Day of Caring", a group of twelve St. Ursula students and two adults gave several hours of service at Padua Center painting, cleaning, and gardening. The young ladies beautified the halls of Padua Center with their laughter, smiles, paint and ammonia!

The chickens also enjoyed the gardeners who prepared the vegetable beds right near their run!



*St. John's Faculty and St. Ursula Academy students paint the hard to reach places!*

---

## How Does Your Garden Grow?

Partnerships between Padua Center and Pickett Academy have grown even stronger as our gardening program begins. Mary Schwartz, Pickett Academy school nurse, received a grant for a gardening project to assure healthy eating habits for the children.

Pickett Academy Garden Club will work in the "Edible, Playable Fitness Ground" and plant edible landscaping. With the assistance of the grant money, supplies, tools, and resources will be available for all of the Padua Potter children.



# Padua Peace Ambassadors Honored

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, ten students and two mothers gathered at Padua Center to celebrate becoming Padua Peace Ambassadors. These children participated in the Padua Possibilities Program and received the honor from Padua Staff and Mrs. Koester, Principal of Pickett Academy for making progress in becoming peaceful people.

Students from the University of Toledo Peace Education Class led activities including: the building a peace wall, face painting, framing the peace pledge, sidewalk drawing, and a variety of games.

Bill Blackwell, of St. Martin de Porres Parish, conducted a session with the mothers. Padua plans to begin a parent support group in the fall. We will work with Parents Helping Parents.

## Volunteers and Donors Since January 1, 2009

### Volunteers:

St John's Jesuit HS Faculty  
St. Ursula 'Day of Caring'  
Jillian Bacon  
Samantha Badas  
Ashley Belcher  
Bill Blackwell  
Nicole Bryeau  
Colleen Cantwell  
Christopher Cochrane  
Stephanie Counterman  
Brandie Cox  
Katie Davis  
Erin Dilley  
Alaf Elhady  
Caroline Farina  
Lauren Felton  
Hilary Flynn  
Katie Focht  
Amanda Fought  
Diana Gaillardetz  
Max Gorski  
Erica Greenwood  
Kathy Gutschalk  
Dr. Lynne Hamer  
Samantha Kaspanan  
Sevim Kilic  
Sheilia Kamaynski  
Alex Luchini

### Cassie Mulligan

Chonya Lynn  
Joseph Martin  
Chanty Melton  
Monet Murray  
Amanda Nastally  
Joanna Novotynyn  
Om Thapa  
Rachel Paskvan  
Brittany Pesich  
Donna Pooley  
Falon Reckers  
Ellen Richardson  
Shakura Roberson  
Samantha Rose  
Riley Savage  
Amy Slack  
Jay Urban  
Amy Utley  
Kristina Vogel  
Kelsy Wermer  
Steve Wirzlyo  
Abigail Woods  
Jeanne Zurat  
Gail Anderson  
Ming Yang Liu

### Donors:

Ed and Sharon Ahlfors  
Sharon Ahrens  
Coleena Ali  
Alice and Bob Arnzen  
Gloria and Wil Baughn  
Bishop Leonard Blair  
Lynn and Roger Davis  
Diane Flaggs  
Annita and Harold Flanagan  
Rose Hawkins  
Rev. Joseph Jaros  
Dave and Jori Jex  
Deb and Paul Johnson  
Dale and Shawna Jones  
Susan and Jay Koester  
Rev. Ken Lill  
Ralph Lauser  
Mary Mantey  
Sister Margaret Mary McLaughlin  
Sean and Pier Mulhall  
Patricia and Nick Nigro  
Walter Pauly  
Cheryl Pelasky  
Rev. Thomas Pipp, SJ  
Thomas and Dianne Powers  
Paige Price  
Candace Renner

### Teresa Rodriguez

Duane and Michael Rymer  
Timothy and Joan Sacksteder  
Jim Savage  
Evelyn Shordt  
Katheryn Snyder  
Ray and Christine Soto  
Jean Underfer-Babalis  
Rev. Ron Warnimont  
Robert and Debbie Welsh  
Greg and Cynthia Welsh  
Sharan and Bill Welsh  
Gary and Cathy Wirzlyo

### Parishes and Businesses

BarbManning.net Freelance  
*Toledo, Ohio*  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
*Swanton, Ohio*  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
*Toledo, Ohio*  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
*Maumee, Ohio*  
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Parish  
*Toledo, Ohio*  
IBEW Local 8  
*Rossford, Ohio*

## Join us for the First Annual Urban Chicken Festival

Saturday, May 23, 2009  
1:00-6:00 PM  
To benefit the work of  
Padua Center

Raffle at 6:00 PM  
at the conclusion of  
the Festival at Padua  
Center

### First Prize:

32" Flat Screen TV

### Second Prize:

Gas Grill

### Third Prize:

Digital Camera

\$1.00 per ticket

\$5.00 for a book of 6 tickets

6 books for \$25.00



**Supported by**  
**ABC Warehouse**