



Padua Ponderings

Volume 3, Issue 3: Summer 2009

Urban Chicken Fest Was Great Fun and Successful!

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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

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

With painted faces, smiles a mile wide, laughter and excitement, the children who attended the first Urban Chicken Fest celebrated our day. With the generosity of many volunteers who helped set up, serve, work at booths, make pop corn and serve cotton candy, grill the chicken and even provide some DJ music, in all ways the Fest was a success.

There were many people involved but a special recognition goes to the committee: Diana Gaillardetz, Ida Stacker, Dennis Jarrett, Joe Reeves, Alicia Smith, Panella Rivers, Renita and Zack James, and Sister Ginny.



Sister Regeen, SND painted faces, while the real hit of the day was our Urban Chickens!



Curtis and Martha Cotton coach a bean bag thrower, as Dennis Jarrett leads "Misunderstood" and other dancers.

St. Martin de Porres, sponsor of Padua Center, provided the majority of volunteers.

Summer Staff at Padua Center

When you call Padua Center this summer you will hear the laughter and excitement of twelve regular volunteers and staff.

As the schedule of Padua Center evolves we have morning people and afternoon people-which make for a lot of fun. Summer camps require a full roster of staff. We have been fortunate this to have excellent workers for the camps.

In addition to those pictured and listed here there are a number of other volunteers who help with multiple tasks on a one time basis.



Our Summer Staff (left to right): Elsie Pate (food manager), John Howard, (volunteer coordinator), Natalie Keyes (AmeriCorps) Chad (AmeriCorps) Alicia Smith, (Educational coordinator), David Gaillardetz (AmeriCorps) Rene Zeismesr (UT3), Donna Polley, (clerical volunteer), Sherry Baker, (Vision Therapy). Absent: Tami Rehklau (Owens College Tutor), Sue Crawford, (clerical and receptionist), Sister Virginia Welsh.

Garden Program Update

Through The Anastasia Fund a number of young people will intern working in the Gardening and Education program of Padua Center. The interns will work at Padua Center, study at the Center for Innovative Food Technology and learn from Sister Jeremias at Lourdes College. They will visit the vertical gardening systems, receive tutoring from Toledo-Grows staff, and come to learn about urban chickens.

The interns bring a wide variety of experience to the Center and they will certainly learn much to share with others. Rep. Marcy Kaptur made arrangements for this valuable opportunity.

Padua Possibilities Evaluated

Over a festive luncheon all those involved in the Padua Possibilities Program celebrated the conclusion of the first year of the program!



Remaining Summer Camps

Peace/Shalom Camp

June 29-July 3 (grades 5-8)

Our Heroes Camp

July 13-17 (grades K-4)

Padua Potters

July 27-30 (grades K-4)

Artful Experiences

August 3-7 (grades 5-8)

Emerging Young Ladies

August 10-14 (Girls grades 6-8)

Joshua Francis, a University of Toledo student, is preparing an evaluation of the Padua Possibilities program for use in future grant writing opportunities. The evaluation elicited a number of positive responses to the program, as well as lessons to incorporate into future efforts. Unfortunately, the Padua Possibilities grant did not receive renewal. If the program is to continue, Padua will need to secure other funding.



The Padua Alliance: Brighten Up Ourselves, Our Homes, Our Neighborhood

Formed in February 2007, The Padua Alliance brings together the University of Toledo, Judith Herb College of Education, ONYX, CDC and Padua Center. This Alliance continues to work toward improvement in the neighborhood immediately around Padua Center.

Continuing an emphasis on safety, the Padua Alliance launched a new initiative of community organizing. Funded by a grant from the local CCHD, the Padua Alliance (also known as the Inner City Development Coalition) hired five community organizers who will work in the neighborhood during the summer months. In addition, there will be five youth (high school age) interns trained in community organizing.

The purpose of this project is to surface concerns of the neighborhood, to bring neighbors together, to address safety issues and ultimately explore funding sources for pedestrian lighting on Nebraska Avenue. Padua Center hopes that this community organizing activity might also elicit some possible names for the neighborhood around the Center.

Volunteer Appreciation Cookout



Jeanne Zurat, Panella Rivers and Selena Hartman enjoy a laugh.

On June 25, 2009 Padua Center held a volunteer appreciation cookout to honor all the volunteers who contribute to the success of the center.

Nearly 20 volunteers came to enjoy and participate in the general festivities.

And The Winner Is!

Winners of our Urban Chicken Festival Raffle are:

M. Webb, Digital Camera (third prize)

Otis Quinn, Gas Grill (second prize)

Clancy Yeager, 32" Television, (first prize)



Clancy Yeager (l) shakes hands with board Member Dennis Jarrett, as he claims his TV.

Finances Weigh Heavy With Non-Profit Agencies

Like all non-profit agencies the economic downturn has greatly altered our ability to procure funding for programs. The two grants that funded Padua Possibilities/ Vision Therapy and our summer camps did not receive renewals. As we look into the future we will have to make some hard decisions about which programs to provide and ways to obtain funding. Volunteers are foundation of Padua Center programs, but building operations does require funding; it takes money to keep the heat and lights on!

A grant from the Center for Non-Profit Resources will allow Padua Center to hire MJ Consulting to assist in developing a financial plan. This firm has met with Sister Virginia Welsh, Director on a regular basis to assist in identifying funders and organizing a data and donor base. Hopefully these efforts will develop new funding streams. Padua Center receives most of its support from individuals, like you, who send regular donations. We depend upon your generosity. Please continue to give!

Donors

Padua Center appreciates the many monetary gifts and in-kind contributions received from our donors.

Educational Items

Incubators: Dee Grimes

Books: Brenda Facey

Festival Items

Gayle Stinson

Diana Gaillardetz

Members of St. Martin de Porres Parish

Monetary Donations

Anonymous

Ed and Sharon Ahlfors

Sharon Ahrens

Coleena Ali

Bob and Alice Arnzen

Tom Carone

Curtis and Martha Cotton

Dennis and Carol Eble

Diane Flagg

Harry and Annita Flanagan

Paul and Rhea Gontarski

Rose Hawkins

Betty Hinton

Carol Jackson

Rev. Joseph Jaros

Latrice Johnson

Lake County Mission Circle #7

June Landry

Ralph Lauser

Helen Lawson

DJ and Susan McKernan

Odessa Rowan

Dianne and Thom Powers

Candace Renner

Christopher and Amy Rowe

Irma Rutkowski

Alicia Smith

Ray and Christine Soto

Suzie Stapelton

Daniel and Sandra Welsh

Cathy Wirzylo

Clancy Yaeger

Joyce Zielinski

Jeanne Zurat

St. Joseph Parish, Toledo

Catholic Heart is All Heart

This summer our Vacation Bible School (VB), "Cosmic City," focused upon How Awesome our God is. What really made this VBS awesome was the gift of seven Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC) volunteers. Each morning the van from Georgia drove into our parking lot with seven eager volunteers. They came from Pennsylvania, Illinois, Georgia, and Tennessee. They were part of nearly 350 volunteers working in the City of Toledo from June 14-18, 2009.



Catholic Heart volunteers and Padua Staff at Vacation Bible School.

Our volunteers, (truly the best!), were the only team to work in a Vacation Bible School. Other CHWC volunteers did manual labor: painting, gardening, building, fixing, and just making Toledo into a better city. What was most important with the CHWC volunteers is that they showed how giving to others can be truly fun and beneficial. We look forward to their return next summer.



John Womacher, Sister Ginny, Dennis Parton and John Howard enjoying morning hospitality.

Donors (continued)

St. Vincent de Paul of St. Joan of Arc Parish

Honorarium

Rev. Michael Billian for his 25th Priestly Ordination