



# Padua Ponderings

## Inside This Issue:

Padua Center Programs Expand....2  
 Restoring Possibilities Program.....2  
 New Curb Goes In.....2  
 Summer Camp Photos.....3  
 Summer Youth at Padua.....4  
 Donors.....5



### 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

## Ujima Urban Agriculture Project

Since the beginning, gardening has been integral to the development of Padua Center, both educationally for the children, and for beautifying the neighborhood. Most recently, a further development has focused on year round gardening.

Central to the project is a structure that will allow winter gardening. Padua Center plans to use the Gothic Hoop House purchased with a grant from the Anastasia Fund for winter gardening. Unfortunately, because of zoning issues and building permits, there has been a delay in erecting the hoop house. Nevertheless, plans are continuing with the expectation that it will be up and running by August. Anticipation of October through January harvesting has the staff excited and ready.



Originally, we will limit our crops to greens because they are a cold crop that we can sell locally throughout the year. Padua Center made contact with several local

restaurants eager to use these fresh, local, chemical free vegetables to enhance and enrich their salads and specialties. When the crops are ready, Padua Center will also sell them.



## Chicken Fest Visited by Toledo Fire Station #6

Thanks to everyone who supported the Chicken Fest on June 7, 2014. It was a great day with delicious meals and lots of fun. Recruiting for the Fire Department started early with this child already fitted for fire gear! Thanks to all who assisted especially the Knights of Columbus #386, Padua Board Members, Padua Staff and parishioners of St. Martin de Porres.

### Prize Winners

- First Prize:** 32" TV - Bill and Cathy Carroll
- Second Prize:** 7" Tablet - Erica Walker
- Third Prize:** Fuji Camera - Kate Savage
- Fourth Prize:** Blu-Ray - Jack McComis



## Padua Center Programs Continue to Grow and Expand

The early planning for Padua Center Fall programs is indicating a new emphasis on the after school tutoring programs. In the past The Padua Center has provided tutoring on Tuesday and Thursdays, but our preliminary plans for 2014-15 school year indicate that after school programming will be done Monday-Thursday and perhaps a special program on Saturdays.

Parent education and programs are also surfacing as needed programs. Several individuals and groups are ready to do programs for parents and The Padua Center is eager to welcome them.

A full list of fall programming and schedules will be on the website and in the Fall newsletter.



### Peaces of Art

*Mark your Calendar!*  
October 12, 2014  
5:00-8:00 PM  
Gesu Sullivan Center

*Ajsha Reddick (left) is painting a chair for the Peaces of Art Silent Auction and Banquet.*

## Restoring Possibilities: A New Program

Restoring Possibilities is the newest program to begin at Padua Center. This program will build upon the successes of the Padua Possibilities program and will provide a welcoming, supportive, and learning environment for children expelled from grade school.

The program will utilize the same elements of Padua Possibilities: learning with an individual teacher, counseling with a professional counselor and peace education with our in house staff. The Maria Brunner Fund and the Toledo Community Foundation fund this new program.

## Sister Marya and Otha Carr Make a Good Team!

The Ujima Park and Garden Urban Agriculture Project have literally grown by “leaps and bounds” with Sister Marya Czech, SND and Otha Carr. Sister Marya came to volunteer and use her expertise as a former Assistant Professor of Biology at Lourdes University. She took hold of the business aspects of the project and gives our gardener, Otha Carr, moral support and much information.

## Kwanzaa Park Welcome Sign!

Lydia Everly, a summer camp counselor, used her talent to paint Welcome to Kwanzaa Park on the two large flower boxes located on Nebraska and Junction Streets! The Kwanzaa Park Neighbors will creatively beautify the large empty lot on which the flower boxes are located!



## New Curb Set Back Goes In

The City of Toledo put in a new ‘set-back’ for the curbs and installed new sidewalks. This construction prevented Otha from planting the beautiful flower garden on the corner of Junction and Nebraska that has been a hallmark of the Ujima Park and Garden. We welcome the new corner!

Watch for our flowers next year!



## Enjoy This Summer Camp Photo Journey

The 2014 summer at The Padua Center included much of the energy and excitement of past summer camps. This summer the students enjoyed Vacation Bible School's theme of "Joseph in Egypt." Like the Hebrew slaves, they learned to make bricks (see pictures on the left). They also went to the Egypt exhibit at the Toledo Art Museum. Magic and Music, Art and Theater, Sports and Health and of course learning were features of the various camps.

The Emerging Young Ladies and Grooming Great Gentlemen camp was the last one scheduled and was a wonderful opportunity for young people (Grades 5-8) to learn about being leaders in our community.



*Katheryn Sholl and Grace Bell imitate the Egyptian Art at the Toledo Art Museum!*



*Jania, the Magic Lady, teaches a trick!*



# Summer Youth Workers and Volunteers at Padua Center

These are some comments from recent youth workers and volunteers at Padua Center.

**Byron Perry said:**

My experience at the Padua Summer Camp has been a great experience.... I love teaching the kids and reading to them. My joy is to be a role model for the kids and try to teach them discipline and respect for others and themselves.



*Ruben Perry smiles after working with the summer campers.*

**Rehonna Wilson said:**

My experience at Padua Center was fun and very adventuresome...like learning how to plant flowers.

**Katherine Stafford said:**

Working at Padua Center over the summer has been a great experience from working with kids to teaching adults. It's always gratifying to be able to affect a young person's life and see how they changed over the summer. Every day I come here, no matter how down I'm feeling or whatever is on my mind, the interaction with the kids always makes my day brighter.

Not only do the children come here to learn, but I do as well. I have learned how to be patient with kids of all personalities, to connect with and learn about other cultures, and have even learned a lot about plants and gardening. Oh, and we can't forget how we save the vegetables and fruit from the children's lunch that they didn't eat for the chickens! Each day is a new adventure and that is what makes it so exciting to volunteer here.



*WORMS! UGH!*



*The Y.E.S. group smiles for a picture after completing their work. They volunteered July 18-19, 2014.*



## Donors from January 1 to June 30, 2014

Elizabeth Adjayan	Kappa Gamma Pi	Constance Shaw
Ed and Sharon Ahlfors	Marcy Kaptur	Kay Shrewsbury and Sue Nowak
Sharon Ahrens	Rose and Jerry Keetion	Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio
Coleena Ali	Cheryl and William Kyser	Sisters of St. Joseph
Sonny and Laila Ariss	June Landry	Sisters of the Precious Blood
Jason Askins	Ralph Lauser	Christine Soto
Joe and Pat Balderas	Yvonne Lear	St. Joseph Church, Toledo
Charles Boyle	Donna Lefebvre	St. Joseph Parish, Maumee, Ohio
William and Catherine Carroll	Mary Mantey	St. Martin de Porres Social Concerns
Curtis and Martha Cotton	George and Mary Ann Rickus-Marsh	Jennifer Teschner and Joseph Tafelski
Judith Crandall	Jack and Ellen McComis	Mary Jo Anderson
Debbie Davis	Ronald and Kathy McCullough	Mary Thebo
Daniel Dawson	Thomas McDonald	Lucretia Thomas
Thomas Dibling	*Terri Mohler	Ronald and Kathy Todd
Buzz and Ellen Ditto	John Moore	Valeria and Mark Tyldesley
Renee Dougherty	John and Cathleen Nelson	Guadalupe Villolovos
Robert and Cynthia Downs	Robert and Mary Niedzelski	Wells and Associates, LLC
Rhonda and Noel Eldridge	Rev. Richard Notter	Kathleen and Warren Welsh
Kristine Fauver	Sisters of St. Francis OSF/S	Gary and Cathy Wirzylo
Moretha Flaggs	Cheryl Pelasky	Steve Wirzylo
Crissie Frye	Harvey Popovich	David and Lynne Wolf
F.A. Gallagher	Paige Price	C.J. Yeager
Tim and Laura Galvin	Shirley Randle	Bernard and Sarah Zbilowski
Elizabeth Ganshow	Steven Roberts	
Anita Garraway	Rosary Altar Society	<b>Grants</b>
Stephen Goldman	Odessa Rowan	Lynch Family
Juanita Greene	Joan Rutherford	Sisters of St. Francis (Tiffin OH)
*Rose Marie Hawkins	Tim and Joan Sacksteder	Anastasia Fund
*Rochelle and Thomas Hite	Irma Santiago	ProMedica (TCF) Fund
John and Patricia Intagliata	Mary K. Savage	CCHD
Carol Jackson	Matthew and Carol Scheiber	Toledo Community Foundation
Rev. Joseph Jaros	Schmakel Eye Care	
Paul and Debra Johnson	Sister Lucille Schmitmeyer	

*Summer Camp activities were funded by Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio.*

### **Partners:**

*Owens Community College  
Lourdes University  
Lucas County Empowerment Program  
Experience Works  
Individual Donors, and  
Diana Labiche, teacher.*

