



Padua Ponderings

Volume 2, Issue 4: March/April 2008

Focus on *Emerging Young Ladies*

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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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The strategic planning for the Padua Center invited a reflection on helping young girls develop self-esteem and confidence. After a dozen groups interested in this topic assembled, they designed a program entitled, Emerging Young Ladies.



Sister Mary Regeen Ulrich, SND, and her assistant, Nicole work with the Emerging Young Ladies on a name project. The four participants are Corrina, Salena, Tia, and Sandra.

Designed for girls in the sixth to eighth grades this program will assist a small group of young ladies in developing skills for self reflection and understanding, appreciating their own self worth and building relationships that will help in the turbulent years of adolescence.

The program involves a number of learning models. The participants will have the opportunity to work in various art forms, to engage in cooperative games, to write in a journal, recording thoughts, and feelings, to listen to a variety of speakers, and to participate in a banquet held in their honor.

Although the full program is for the 2008-09 school year, a pilot program will run in April and May. Work on these four Saturdays will provide feedback on the whole program and will also give the team an opportunity to evaluate the various components. It is also hoped that several young ladies will emerge as potential team members for the 2008-09 program. A special donation from the Ursuline Sisters and friends of Toledo provided funding for the pilot program.

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Padua Alliance Hosted Two City Officials for Discussion

The Padua Alliance consisting of ONYX, University of Toledo, and Padua Center continues to pursue resolutions to some of the issues highlighted in the research conducted by the Qualitative Research Class which met at the Center during the 2007 school year. The Alliance addressed first increasing and improving the street lighting.

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Panera Bread Continues to Donate to the Padua Center

For more than a year, Padua Center has been the recipient of bread, bagels, and pastries from Panera Bread. These weekly donations are a standard part of our outreach ministry. Persons come daily to the Center for a hot cup of coffee, a pastry or bagel, and some conversation. In addition, there are a number of people who come to pick up bread to supplement their regular grocery needs. Toasted cinnamon bagels are a special treat for the children who come for tutoring.

Panera has been very generous over the year, and we are grateful for their continued assistance to Padua Center, and to other nonprofit agencies who receive their free bread.



Panera Bread workers carry bread to Sister Virginia's car.

An Edible, Accessible, Play-able Fitness Ground

Using grant funds in partnership with ToledoGrows, the Padua Center will install a playground and raise chickens in the area of the old St. Anthony School. Andrew Gaillardtz, St. John's Jesuit High School student who is working on his Eagle Scout project, will coordinate the installation of the playground equipment. Michael Szuberla, of ToledoGrows, will oversee the chicken coop and raising the chickens. We anticipate having about a half dozen chickens.

The children will feed the chickens and have an opportunity to gather eggs. In addition to the fitness equipment and chicken area, Padua plans to landscape the rest of the area with edible fruits, vegetables, trees, and berries. It will take a few years to develop the complete area, but it promises to be the first of its kind in Toledo. This is a unique concept that connects exercise and healthy nutrition. The children will play on the equipment, and then have the opportunity to pick vegetables for a salad, or fruits for dessert. Padua center will gather the eggs so that the children and adults can have fresh eggs to eat. The chickens will eat organic scraps and will help the children understand the circle of life and the role of re-cyclers in our environment.

The Padua Alliance

(Continued from page 1)

In March 2008, the group held meetings with Mike Badik of the Department of Neighborhoods, and Councilman Michael Ashford to plan the next steps in procuring better and increased lighting. A steady group of participants will assure the resolution of this issue. The Alliance also plans a Block Watch meeting, a Peace Rally, and a "Night Out" in August.



Dr. Lynne Hamer, University of Toledo (l), and Mike Badik, Department of Neighborhoods, discuss the lighting issues on Nebraska Avenue.



New Council Members Introduced

Because of family and work commitments Ellen Jones and Susie Stevenson submitted their resignations from the Advisory Council to Padua Center. Three new members joined the Council and bring a wealth of experience and excitement to our efforts. Padua Center welcomes newly retired Dennis Jarrett, a parishioner of St. Martin dePorres Parish. In addition to serving on the Council he has decided to give some time each week to the programming at the Center. Rev. Herb Weber, pastor of the newly formed Blessed John XXIII Parish, comes to the council with a background in Social Work, as well as many years of pastoral experience.



New council member, Dennis Jarrett volunteers with the children after school.

Patrice Powers-Barker is no stranger to the Padua Center. Patrice works for the Ohio State Extension Services in the area of family nutrition. She has come to the Center for the past year to work with the children on nutrition. In addition, she also has worked with ToledoGrows and understanding the concepts involved in the “Edible, Accessible, Play-able Fitness Park” being designed for Padua Center.

Summer Camps Being Planned

Thanks to a grant from the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, the Padua Center summer camps received funding. Vacation Bible School held this summer (June 16-20, 2008) is for children from grades K-6. Unique to this program is a service component in which the children will put into practice the teachings from the Bible. Padua Center scheduled two camps designed for children in grades K-4. The Padua Potters Puttering Camp (June 23-27, 2008) will feature working in the Ujima Park and Garden, a trip to the Toledo Botanical Garden, and tending chickens. Music Makes the World Go Round Camp (August 4-8, 2008) will give the campers the opportunity to listen to various musicians, to learn about music, and to make musical instruments. Campers in grades 5-8 have an opportunity to attend Magic Camp (July 21-25, 2008), and Shalom Peace Camp (July 7-11, 2008). Included in the grant are stipends for two youth counselors to join the staff for the camps.

A Local Business Helps with Design of Fitness Ground

The Padua Center repeatedly benefits from the generosity of professionals in the Toledo community. The Fitness Ground is another example of many people coming together to help. In addition to ToledoGrows and two grants they received to provide fitness equipment and chickens, Jeff Moritz of Landscape Designs produced a landscape plan for the whole area. Jeff’s son, Jake Moritz, a St. John’s Jesuit High School Senior, volunteered at Padua Center and worked on the outside landscaping, besides organizing the interior painting of much of the Center.



Challenge Girls Host Lent-Easter Party

After the successful La Posada party, the Challenge girls returned to have a Lent-Easter party for the children in the Zawadi tutoring program. The children colored pictures of the Stations of the Cross and then the Challenge Girls reflected on the Stations.

In addition, there were games of finding candy-filled eggs, making sculptures, decorating plastic eggs and eating warm pretzels. Once again, we thank the Challenge girls and their leaders for all their work.



Congratulations Graduates!

From St. John's Jesuit High School:

Alex Chrysanthou
Jake Moritz
Ben Bishop
Thomas White

From Davis College:

Tammy Vaughan

Donors and Volunteers

New Tutors:

Lisa Wilczynski
Dennis Jarrett

Emerging Young Ladies:

Elaine Arnzen Sheehan
Mary Jo Anderson
Erin Battistoni
Nicole Cramer

Furniture Donations:

Start High School
University of Toledo
Bridges, Monroe United
Methodist Church
Items for Ujamaa Store
Rite-Aid Pharmacy



Children having fun at our Easter Party.

Computers & Equipment:

Harry Flanagan
Jean Underfer-Babalis

Monetary Donations:

Sharon and Ed Ahlfors
Michael & Patricia Brown
Rev. Bernie Boff
William and Carol Clark
Karry Gibson
Linda and Larry Haas
Robert and Carol Hauzie
Kathleen Kemperman
Donald Kromer
Mary Beth Parton
William and Dorothy Parton
Thom and Dianne Powers
St. Joseph Parish of Marblehead, Ohio
Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio
Jean Underfer-Babalis
Ursuline Sisters
James Zbilowski

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