



Padua Ponderings

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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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Growth and Change, Transitions and Transfer

From its inception, the Diocese of Toledo sponsored The Padua Center. On July 1, 2008, the Padua Center will find a new home as a ministry outreach of St. Martin de Porres Parish. This transition in the life and growth of Padua Center guarantees to bring more excitement, energy, and support both in volunteers and in financial contributions.

The announcement of this transition came at the same time Sister Virginia Welsh received her appointment as director of Padua Center and the Pastoral Leader of St. Martin de Porres Parish. Since The Padua Center is located within the boundaries of St. Martin de Porres Parish it was appropriate to transfer the ministry to that parish.

Sister Virginia will continue to be the director of the Center, but her presence at the Center will adjust to accommodate her new ministry at the parish. The center will hire an educational coordinator to oversee the day-to-day programs focused on children in the tutoring, vision therapy and the alternate to suspension programs.

St. Martin de Porres Parish will begin to reflect upon ways that programs at the Detroit/Bancroft campus can utilize the Padua Center complex. The Center will answer questions regarding utilization of office space, special programs, and the outreach ministry as this new arrangement unfolds.

The Center will announce new programs and schedules as we negotiate this transition and fall programming is underway.

Catholic HEART Scheduled to Paint

Catholic HEART, a national Catholic Youth Service group, will be visiting Padua Center from June 10-13. Through their local contact person, Katie Cornell of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Parish, they plan to complete painting a hallway on second floor.

After priming by the St. John's Jesuit Academy boys, this area is ready for a final coat of paint. Other areas that need painting, or preparation for painting, include a fourth classroom and the hallway on the third floor.

Volunteer Announcement

We invite all volunteers to participate in "A Painter's Camp!"
June 30-July 2, 2008

Come give an hour or more and help beautify Padua Center
9:00 AM-9:00 PM
Call for more information.

The Padua Center receives Grants for New Programs

The Padua Center received three grants for the upcoming year. As mentioned in the last Padua Ponderings, a grant from the Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, will fund the summer camps. In addition, the Maria Anna Brunner fund granted \$15,000 to the hospitality and outreach ministries of the Center. The St. Marguerite D'Youville Fund will underwrite two new programs. Vision therapy, under the direction of Dr. Jeffery Schmaku, will begin in September. Children from the Zawadi tutoring program will undergo screening for vision problems and those needing vision therapy will receive it free of charge. A therapist, trained by Dr. Schmaku, will work one hour a day for ten weeks with each child needing therapy. Also funded by The St. Marguerite D'Youville Fund, the Padua Possibilities Program is an alternative to suspension. The Toledo Public Schools have a high number of suspensions each day. One report indicates that 20-40% of the children receive suspensions. The Padua Possibilities Program provides tutoring during the school day for children suspended from Pickett School, and has recognition as an alternative to traditional suspension. The program requires parents to become involved with their children, explore the causes of the suspension, and develop a plan with their child to help resolve issues that caused suspension.

Wormworks Project

Sister Christine Pratt, of the Toledo Diocesan Rural Life Office, Sister Rita Wienken of the Franciscan Earth Literary Center in Tiffin, Ohio and about 45 students, their teachers, and drivers from Port Clinton, Edgerton, and Fremont visited Padua Center on May 7, 2008. The purpose of the visit was to bring seedlings the students started in the vermiculture from the worm boxes in their classrooms. This is part of the Diocesan sponsored Wormworks project.



Visiting students assist Andrea Pryor, of the Padua Potters, in planting a tomato plant as part of the Wormworks Project.



Volunteer Appreciation Event scheduled for June

Because the Padua Center named for St. Anthony of Padua, we chose June 13, his feastday, to recognize and honor the many volunteers and donors who contribute to the Padua Center ministries. The Padua Center invites everyone involved as partners in its development to this recognition event. Join us from 6:00-8:00 PM on Friday, June 13, 2008. Hearty appetizers, exploring changes at Padua Center, and time for visiting and appreciation are on the schedule. Please stop in to say hello.



Alex pictured here on his last day of tutoring!

Emerging Young Ladies Complete Pilot Program

On May 17, six young women and two guests gathered around the banquet table at the Padua Center to celebrate the conclusion of the pilot program, *Emerging Young Ladies*.

Having gathered for four Saturdays to reflect upon issues facing young women in today's society, this core group gave valuable feedback to the planners and eagerly volunteered to help lead the group in September.

"I learned how teammates help me," said one participant.

Others commented: "I learned teamwork."

"I learned it is important to talk it out when something is wrong."

"I learned to make positive choices."

"I learned there are certain people to watch out for."

The girls liked the activities, the interactive style, making new friends, and the time they spent talking about different ideas and concerns. The Catholic Club visit, which focused on cooperative games, was a highlight with the girls. Nurse Jacqueline, Miss Natural, and Celia Williamson received recognition for engaging the girls and sharing important information about growing up. When asked what should be eliminated from the program the participants gave a unanimous response: "nothing".

Please see Page 4 for a list of the volunteers who helped with the program. Our deepest gratitude to them, the Ursuline Sisters, and their friends who helped fund the program.



Taleiah and Tamela found a quiet place on a window ledge to write in their journals. Self-reflection was built into the Emerging Young Ladies program.



Lindsey (left), Kennesha, and Lisa learn a new dance, under the direction of Sister Sandy Sherman, from Ohio State University.

Registration for the Summer Camps is now open

The Center plans to accept registrations for summer camps up until one week before camp. Padua limits participants in all camps. Early registration guarantees a place. Several of the camps have unique components that will make for fun and enjoyment. Camps begin at 10:00 AM at Padua Center and concludes at 2:00 PM. Participants receive lunch during camp. Call the Center for information.

Camps	Dates	Grades	Special Features
Vacation Bible School	June 16-20	Grades K-8	
Padua Potters Puttering	June 23-27	Grades K-4	Trips to UT & Toledo Botanical Gardens.
Shalom Peace Camp	July 7-11	Grades 5-8	Peace Rally on July 11
Magic Camp	July 21-25	Grades 5-8	Magicians will come to teach magic.
MusicCamp	August 4-8	Grades K-4	Various Musicians will come to visit. Trip to the Ohio Theater

Free lunch is available between June 16 and August 8, 2008. Any child 18 or younger qualifies to participate. 12:00-12:30 PM. Tutoring occurs throughout the month of July. Call (419) 241-6465 for information.

A Painting for the Kuumba Room

St. John's Jesuit High School student, John Geach (right) and his grandfather watch S'DavLloyd find himself in John's painting which is hung in the Kuumba Room.

John met with the students on numerous occasions to develop the concepts for the painting. Each child, under John's direction, drew themselves into the painting. After volunteers and staff mounted the painting, the children eagerly examined it looking for their images!



University of Toledo Researchers Return

Again, this Spring, the University of Toledo Qualitative Research I class is meeting at Padua Center. The students visited a Block Watch Meeting, toured the Center and then the neighborhood.



William Bacon, community member, (center left) listens to the students discuss their tour.

They will spend time in the Ujima Park and Garden, conduct interviews, and provide valuable data for Padua center's future planning. Padua Center appreciates professor, Dr. Lynne Hamer for her assistance.



Donors and Volunteers

Emerging Young Ladies:

- Jacqueline Chaney
- Ms. Natural Chaney
- Celia Williamson
- Carolyn Schmidbauer
- Sister Sandy Sherman, Ohio State Univeristy
- Sister Mary Lou DeBauche, Ohio State Univeristy
- Linda Spence
- Lisa Fedina
- Ellen McComis and Sue Nowak
- Pam Crabtree

Financial Donations:

- St. Caspar Parish/St. Bernadette Rosary Circle
- St. Joseph Parish, Maumee
- St. John's Jesuit High School
- Irma Rutkowski

