



Padua Ponderings

Issue: Spring 2021

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Mission Statement

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 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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Toledo, Ohio 43607
(419) 241-6465
www.paduacenter.org

Summer Chicken Fest 2021

Are you ready for some great chicken?



When: Sunday July 18, 2021 (12:00-3:00 PM)

Where: St. Martin De Porres Parish
1119 W. Bancroft Street
Toledo OH 43607

Padua Center will host a summer barbeque in the St. Martin de Porres Parish parking lot on Sunday, July 18, 2021, from 12:00-3:00 PM (or until the chicken is gone!) Martin Porter will once again provide great chicken for this event. Side dishes will include baked beans, potato salad, a roll, and a drink. All dinners will be take-out, although there will be places to stay and eat outside for those who wish.

The Raffle is Back

As part of the summer festivities at Padua Center we offer a chance to win some great prizes. Coming out of the COVID protocols we are ready to come together and celebrate with some winners. Padua Center will draw raffle tickets at 3:00 PM after the Chicken Fest. A list of the prizes is below.



Robotic Vacuum



Air Fryer

- 1st Prize Samsung-Galaxy Tab A7
- 2nd Prize Bissell Robotic Vacuum
- 3rd Prize La Gourmet Air Fryer

Order your tickets today!

\$1.00 each
6 for \$5.00
6 books for \$25



Samsung Tablet

Peaces of Art Scheduled for 2021

Because of the pandemic last year, Peaces of Art happened virtually. This year, Padua Center is gearing up for an in-person event on October 10 at the Sullivan Center of Gesu Parish. The event will begin at 5:00 PM. What the CDC guidelines will be in effect in October are unknown now, but Padua Center will abide by all guidelines.

At this early announcement we are planning and focusing on the types of art that will be available for auction. We do know that Kay Shrewsbury stitched two beautiful pieces of counted cross stitch. And, there will be the best from Padua Center's Art Camp!

The event promises to be fun with a dinner, a silent auction, a live auction and music provided by Fr. Art and Straight Up. Padua Center children and the Emerging Young Ladies will be providing a warm welcome. They will be ready to assist our guests in any way they can. You can purchase tickets online for \$35 at paduacenter.org. You can also call Padua Center (419) 241-6465.

Virtual Learning During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Padua Center is known for flexibility and a commitment to do what it can to empower children and adults to be the best that they can be. When school began virtually in September 2020, Padua Center became a learning site for twenty-three children.



Osello receives assistance with his reading from one of the volunteers.

Because of various schedules, A and B groups and updates from Toledo Public Schools there were usually between eight to ten children here on any given day. The regular staff and some volunteers assisted the students in logging in to their classes, completing their assignments and experiencing the regularity of coming 'to school' each morning.

Because of social distancing staff often seated children with siblings and a sibling group then socially distanced itself from other children. Students from the Corpus Christi University Parish spent a day volunteering at Padua Center, helping in the gardens and working with the children.



Sisters Mi'Kayla and Lila work side-by-side and connect with their teachers at Discover Academy.



Mrs. Liz Facey volunteered to help the youngest children with reading.



Gardening at Padua Center is Growing

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Have A Hive brought us a beehive and a guaranteed Beekeeper. The bees will pollinate our garden and are an educational resource for our students—especially for our Padua Potters.



Corpus Christi University Parish volunteers spent some hours in the garden preparing it for the summer growth and fall harvest.



A bed of lettuce is ready for Market. Note the fencing to keep the groundhogs and rabbits out. They are our biggest challenge!



Featured Summer Camps

Once again, this summer Padua Center will offer a variety of summer camps. During the week of June 21-25, the campers will participate in a **Metroparks Camp**. Daily trips to Pearson Park will give the youth a chance to do hands on science projects, pond study, canoeing, and much more.

From July 6-9 the campers will participate in a **Peace Camp**. They will learn how to achieve peace within and make peace with others. Learning Yoga will be a fun part of this week.

Of course, each summer we offer **Vacation Bible School**. This summer VBS will be July 19-23. Heifer International developed this year's theme of **Animal Crackers**. The campers will study animals, relate them to Bible Stories, do activities and develop a way to raise \$20 to buy a flock of chickens for a Third World country.



Duane Allison at a previous Metropark camp.

Padua Potters the gardening camp will take place from July 12-16. Other camps will focus on racism. For details, please call Avery Cooper at Padua Center (419) 241-6465.

Enroll now!

Padua Potters Activities

Padua Center Garden Staff met twice with representatives of Central State Extension. The Extension focuses on Urban Farming and offered many resources to assist our Ujima Urban Agriculture Program to move forward.

Justin Barnhart, of Central State Extension brought resources to the gardening program. In May, Padua Center received a hive of bees for education and also for pollination. Beekeepers will tend the bees and Padua Center will benefit from their educational efforts.

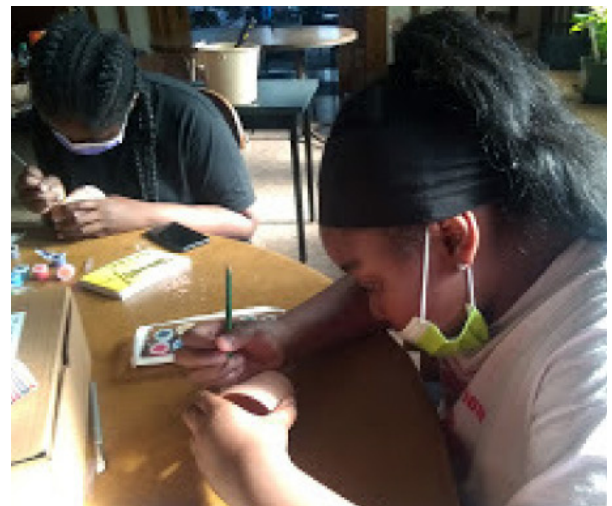


The online students joined Mr. Roger (seated in the front) for a tour of the garden. Mrs. Bre (left) and Mr. Chitranjan (right) escorted them.

Emerging Young Ladies Update

The Emerging Young Ladies Program began at Padua Center because of various staffing opportunities and staunch support from Mimi Nicholson, we continue with the program. Mrs. BreAnna Levesque is the director and while she was out on maternity leave Mrs. Anique Davis took on leadership.

Mrs. Davis is the leader of Squad Goals Dance group. She worked to untie the girls for enrichment and fun. This year the girls have been busy with lots of activities. In April, the girls painted and decorated flowerpots and will soon be planting seeds to beautify the Padua Center.



Mrs. Anique Davis (in pink) helps the Young Ladies paint their flowerpots. After painting the flowerpots, the Ladies planted seeds in them.

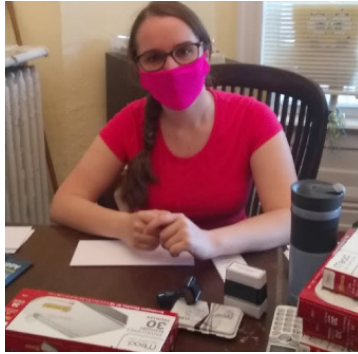


Donors January to May, 2021

Mike and Jean Badik
Chuck Boyle
Call to Action
Buzz and Ellen Ditto
Robert Fisher
Diane Flaggs
Moreatha Flaggs
Fr. A. Gallagher
Tim and Laura Galvin
Gerald Hoeffel
Foundation
John and Linda Hartigan
Judith Hofmann
Holy Spirit Catholic
Community
+Rev. Robert Wilhelm
John Moran
Savage Foundation
Sean and Delise Simmons
Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio
Tom Shaw
Thomas and Mary Sheffler
St. Joseph Parish, Sylvania, Ohio
Joe Talfeski and Jennifer Teschner
J.B. Tewell
TD Ameritrade Clearing
Lynne Vonderwell
Russ and Deb Welsh
Loretta Wenger

In-kind Legal Services

Mark McBride



Ann Peltier is smiling under her mask as she is helping prepare an upcoming mailing. Thanks Ann.



Kerry Gibson volunteers to keep the property clean. He picks up trash and helps Roger with various projects. Thanks Kerry.

Once again, this summer, Padua Center will have youth workers through the Harbor Job Training Program. We are thrilled that Marzellus and Marshun Moore, twin brothers (pictured on the right), chose to return to Padua Center to work.

We are delighted to have them back!



Panera Bread Gift

Did you know that Panera Bread donates to Charitable Organizations the unsold bakery products each evening? This is their “Doughnation.”

Padua Center picks up bakery products from Panera in Holland, Ohio every Saturday evening. This past year, Padua Center received \$20,706 worth of food items.

Thanks Panera Bread!

Panera Bread on bread racks ready for pick up by neighbors.



Kwanzaa Park Neighbors Host Christmas Drive-By

To show off the new roof and the newly painted building, Padua Center held a Christmas Eve drive-by event. The Kwanzaa Park Neighbors will begin meeting again on June 3, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Come and join your neighbors in improving our neighborhood. The meetings will continue throughout the summer.

For information call the Center (419)241-6465.

