



Padua Ponderings

Issue : Spring 2022

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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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Come Join Us for Chicken Fest 2022

Each summer, Padua Center hosts the Chicken Fest Barbecue Event with games and fun for children. This summer, the event will once again occur at St. Martin de Porres Parish, 1119 West Bancroft Street, on the corner of Bancroft and Detroit Avenue. It will begin at 12:00 PM and continue until 4:00 PM. In addition, to a delicious chicken dinner there will be entertainment, games, informational booths and a raffle. Detailed lists of participants will be available on our website this June.

Chicken Fest Raffle Prizes

One day Cedar Point tickets for four
Outdoor Fire Pit for a deck or patio
Movie projector for smart phone



Chicken Dinner Menu

Barbecue Chicken
Potato Salad
Sr. Ginny’s Baked Beans
Cupcake
(Hot dogs and Sausages are also available a la carte.)

Dinner Cost

Adults - \$12.00
Children - \$8.00

Theresa M. Gabriel Honored by NAACP



Congratulations to Padua Board Member, Theresa M. Gabriel. The Toledo Branch of NAACP recognized her during Black History Month for her accomplishments and dedication to the community, specifically, for her service as past president of the Toledo Branch of NAACP. She has approximately 60 years of experience working with community service organizations on local, state, regional, and national levels. She has also served on City Council before working at the Board of Elections. She is a fervent sponsor of Padua Center.

Padua Center and the TutorSmart Program

During the 2021-2022 school year, Padua Center worked with TutorSmart to provide quality tutoring for children after school. The overall structure of the program allows the children to have equal time with a teacher, working on the computer, and time with a Padua staff member for reinforcement and enrichment.

This successful program allowed Padua students to receive assistance, as needed. TutorSmart will also be helping students during the summer, each day prior to summer camp. Because of the effects of the COVID pandemic upon education, it is important for children to have opportunities for academic enrichment.



Congratulations to Our Emerging Young Lady

Anastie Taylor placed First Runner Up in the American Beauties Plus Pageant. The family went to Atlanta for the final competition.

Anastie is the daughter of Anique Davis, director of our Emerging Young Ladies Program. Her platform is cyberbullying, and her talent is art.



Kwanzaa Park Neighbors' Meetings

Phyllis Toney organizes monthly meetings of Kwanzaa Park Neighbors. She arranged for various speakers to come the first Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 PM. Our next

meeting is on May 5, 2022. Please come and join us for an opportunity to connect with neighbors, find out about volunteer opportunities, and work toward making our neighborhood safe and beautiful.

The meetings include a visit from the Toledo Police Community Service Officer, a raffle, and as always news of the neighborhood.



Hoop House Expansion and Spring Planting Start

When Padua Center erected the Hoop House for Ujima Park and Garden, the Center received permission to do so from the property owner, Mabel Powell. In March 2022, since the Hoop House and Ujima Park programs stabilized, Padua Center purchased the property from Ms. Powell.

Thanks to the Hoop House, Roger got an early start on the garden. On March 26, in the middle of a spring snow squall, eleven University of Toledo Fraternity Brothers came to Padua Center as a part of The Big Event, to help get things ready for planting. The cold temperatures did not deter these young energetic men from planting, preparing beds, cleaning up logs and debris, stretching new guidelines for the grapes and enjoying a moment with the chickens.



On March 8, 2022, Roger Whickum receives the transfer of property documents from Mable Powell.

Padua Center at the Farmers Market

On Saturday mornings, you can now purchase Padua Center produce at the Farmers' Market. Oscar Shaheer fills his table with Padua Center produce each week. Buying Padua Center vegetables or eggs is a wonderful way to support the work of the Ujima Urban Agriculture Program.



Check out these cage-free eggs and greens in the Hoop House.

Stepping Up and Helping Out!

Thanks to a grant from the Toledo Rotary Foundation Fund at the Toledo Community Foundation Padua Center was able to replace the crumbling sandstone steps at the entrance to Padua Center. We now step up with confidence.

Also included were funds for repairing bathrooms and leaking pipes. We thank the Toledo Rotary for their continued support of Padua Center.



Panera Bread-Doughnation

For almost 15 years, Panera Bread donated to Padua Center. Their donation program Day-End Doughnation provides the end of the day product to non-profit agencies. Each Saturday, Padua Center staff pick up the bread from the Panera in Holland, Ohio. Once the Panera donation reaches Padua Center, staff bags it and places it on the porch for anyone to take. This past year, the value of those donations was \$21,357.

Thank you, Panera Bread!



Summer Camps Planned for 2022

This Summer, Padua Center will once again offer a variety of summer camp experiences for youth, grades K-8th. In addition to the usual opportunities that Padua Center offers, this year there will be an emphasis on financial literacy during the first week of camp.

The Camps are:

June 6 - Money Matters

During this camp, children will learn about money, investing, saving, and spending deals.

June 13 - Culture Matters

Learning about Juneteenth will be an important part of this camp.

June 20 - Health Matters

This camp will explore the topics of gardening, healthy eating, and cooking.

June 27 - Country Matters

This camp will prepare the children to celebrate the Fourth of July.

July 4-8 - No Camp This Week

July 11 - Our Common Home Matters

Vacation Bible School will examine our Care of Earth.

July 18 - Metroparks Matters

This is a week of exciting activities directed by Toledo Metro-Parks.

July 25 - Teamwork Matters

This session of camp will round out the summer with a sports and teamwork week.

August 1 - You Matter - Each Individual Matters

In addition, to the camps which run from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, Padua Center will serve breakfast at 8:30 AM. From 9:00-10:00 AM campers will be able to join the Padua Potters Garden Club, the Spanish Language Club, or TutorSmart.

Extras for the Summer Programs

This summer, Ann Peltier, a volunteer, will offer “Let’s Have Fun in Spanish” every Tuesday and Thursday before camp at 9:00 AM. Ann volunteered at Padua Center last summer and wanted to come back this year and be more involved and share her Spanish skills. In addition, on Wednesday from 9:00-10:00 AM, students can join the Padua Potters Garden Club. This special club will provide opportunities and outings for students to grow in their understanding of gardening.



Ann Peltier volunteered at Padua Center during the 2021 summer camps. She did secretarial work. This year she will help teach Spanish!



Volunteer Ms. Liz Facey is releasing a butterfly as part of Summer Camp 2021.



Thanks to Our Donors

September 2021– March 2022

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