



Padua Ponderings

Fall 2019

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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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Honoring Earl Mack and The Buffalo Soldiers!

Congratulations to Earl D. Mack, Jr. (Tabono), President of the Buffalo Soldiers. The Padua Center has had an exciting relationship with the Buffalo soldiers, especially Earl Mack, President. So, this year at our Peaces of Art celebration we will honor Mr. Mack and all the Buffalo soldiers for their work in the community.



Mr. Mack retired from the Ohio Department of Public Safety after 32 years of service. His passion for young people reflects his years as a Police Officer with the University of Toledo Police Department. In 2007 he received an appointment to the position of Deputy

Director of Ohio Homeland Security. He is a Vietnam Veteran, serving as a Combat Medic from 1970-1971; currently he holds a commission with the Lucas County Sheriff's Office and Security.

The Buffalo Soldiers have come to Padua Center a number of times and always thrill the children with their motorcycles, as they impart knowledge and character. Mr. Mack upholds the tradition and mission of the Buffalo soldiers. The Buffalo Soldiers promote community service with an emphasis on youth. They provide information on the heritage and the rich history of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments of the United States. The group also promotes safe and enjoyable motorcycling.



Featuring Kay Shrewsbery's Counted Cross-Stitch

Counted Cross-Stitch is a skill that Kay Shrewsbery perfected. Thousands of stitches and hours of work produce the two pieces shown here. Padua Center will include these pieces in the silent auction portion of the Peaces of Art Celebration.



Kay Shrewsbery

If you cannot attend the Peaces of Art Event and want to bid on these pieces, you can stop by

Padua Center to see them and place a bid prior to October 13, 2019.



Padua Center is Getting a New Look



Padua Center is undergoing a 'face lift!' Padua Center needs a new roof and paint job. On August 26, Duane Chittum of Chittum Painting began power washing the Padua Center porch; this is the first step in painting the Center. The new paint job is a benefit of a grant from Anderson's Toledo Community Foundation Fund. Funding from the Toledo Port Authority is making a substantial contribution to getting a new roof.

Both projects cost an estimated \$51,000. The two generous grants cover \$31,000 of the cost. An additional \$20,000 is necessary to get both projects completed. During the summer individuals donated nearly \$4,000 in support of these two important projects. We invite you to make a contribution toward these projects now, or at the Peaces of Art celebration.

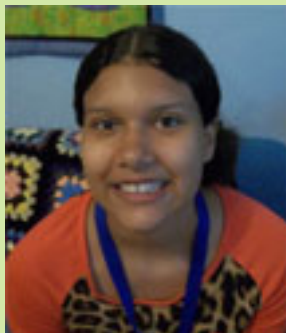
Our Great Employees and Volunteers Made Camp a Success

The success of the Summer Camps depends upon good employees and generous volunteers. This summer, for Vacation Bible School, Rose Ellis, Twyla Wheaton, Sister Fidelis Rubbo joined Patti Majer for an understanding of reaching out to all the world.

Seven employees (pictured below) assigned through the Harbor Youth Opportunity Program and supported by a grant from the Sisters of St. Francis in Tiffin worked to make the Summer Camps successful.



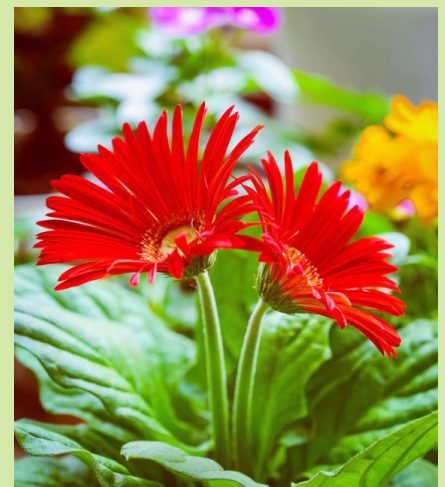
Skye Phillips



Maria Meinhart



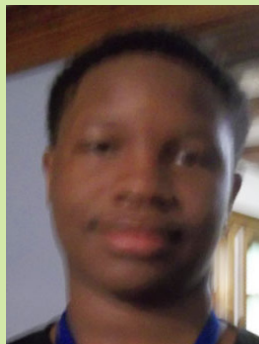
Marzellus Moore



Marshaun Moore



Ronnelle Thompson



Mar'Khi Moore



New Programming for 2019-2020 School Year

Padua Possibilities Program Ends

Over the last ten years the Padua Possibilities Program served 1,082 children suspended from school. Over the years, the schools served included: Pickett, Robinson, Martin Luther King Academy for Boys, Sherman, Rosa Parks, Kyser, Beverly, and Rosary Cathedral. In addition, children referred from Lucas County Children's Services came from other schools.

Because of a change in the policies of Toledo Public Schools children no longer receive suspensions, they instead receive services within school. Therefore, the Padua Possibilities Program is over.

Existing Programs Enhanced and New Programs Developed

Padua Center staff is busy with developing new programs to respond to the needs of the community, especially children. The Emerging Young Ladies Program is continuing to develop reaching out to a new group of girls.

Activities focus on character development, goal setting and fun things for girls to do together. Brookelyn Phillips is the director of this program, as well as the Padua Potters, an ongoing Garden Club for youth and adults.

To partner with the ladies, Mr. Avery Cooper is developing the Grooming Great Gentlemen Program. Both programs focus on youth grades 5-8. If you know children who might enjoy having fun with other youth give our staff a call and enroll them. These free programs and the calendar are flexible to meet with the schedules of the youth.

Mr. Cooper is also developing a Mentoring Program. This program will focus on building one-on-one relationships adults and youth in the community. Mr. Cooper is seeking volunteers. If you are interested or want to know more about this or other programs call us at (419) 241-6465.

Chicken Fest was Steaming Hot!

The intense heat during the week of July 20, 2019 prompted many events in the city of Toledo to cancel, including the African American Parade. The lack of parade watchers resulted in poor attendance at the Urban Chicken Fest.

Nevertheless, those attending enjoyed chicken cooked by Martin Porter with the help of Lawrence Taylor and Martin's daughter, Valencia. Thanks to the NA group that meets at Padua Center the coleslaw was top shelf! Baked beans prepared by Sr. Ginny topped off the meal. Attendees took food home or ate at Padua Center.

Prize Winners

Tablet - Matt and Carol Scheiber

Eco Dot Alexa - Padua Center

Air Fryer - Ralph Lauser



Reflections on Padua Center Programs This Year

Avery Cooper's Thoughts....

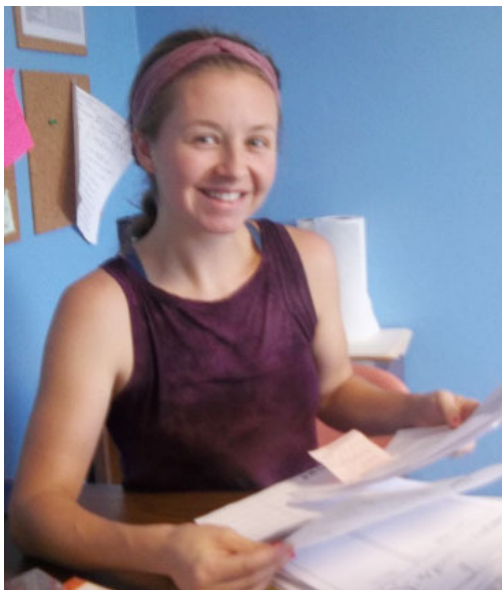
As a little boy growing up in Homestead, Florida (45 miles south of Miami) my parents divorced when I was 7 and through our local church, I was able to find stability when my mom allowed me to be in the Boy Scouts. I have three sisters and remember feeling overlooked at times but being in that social program helped build my confidence and self-esteem.



Avery Cooper and Chief Brian Byrd with children at Padua Center.

Running ahead to 2019, I am a husband, father of four, grandfather of nine and very excited to be Padua Center's Director of Social Programs! A few weeks ago, our Summer Camp concluded. A moment to remember occurred when a staff camper was in an accident, two girls wrote a message to her on the chalk board. It was also nice to see the boys' express a desire to be a fire chief after meeting Fire Chief Brian Byrd at Padua Center. As Fall approaches, I am looking forward to energizing our Mentoring program and Grooming Great Gentlemen program. Stay tuned, the best is yet to come!

Brookelyn Phillips Thoughts...



Brookelyn Phillips

Our summer camp, themed, 'Keepin It Local' was jam packed with activity this year. I am passionate about highlighting the Toledo area for many of the untapped and underused resources we have, so I wanted to include that in this years' camp. We introduced the campers to local gems by taking many field trips! To name a few, we visited the 577 Foundation, the Toledo Zoo, Toledo Grows & Rosenbloom's (two local farms), various Metroparks, J'Mae's Restaurant, and more.

When it comes to activity planning, I always strive to mix education, adventure, and fun in one package. The extra time it takes to accomplish this goal is always worth it for the children!



Ujima Garden Update

Ujima Urban Agriculture is the gardening program at Padua Center. Roger Whitkum and Janda Burwell have been tending the garden this summer and harvesting swiss chard, green beans, tomatoes, beets, eggplant and zucchini; lots more produce is coming. Board member Oscar Shaheer sells Padua Produce at the Farmers' Market every Saturday. Please look for us and support Padua Center's garden!

Thanks to Our Donors

Donors for Painting and Re-roofing of Padua Center

Ed and Sharon Ahlfors
Dorothy Heinlen
Dave and Jori Jex
Debra Johnson
Robert and Mary Ann Niedzielski, Sr
Mary Kate Savage
Mary Sawers
Matthew and Carol Scheiber
St Joseph Church, Maumee
St Joseph Church, Sylvania
Tap Tooling Accessory Products
Clancy Yaeger

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Paige Price
George Marsh and Mary A. Rickus
Evelyn Shordt
Christine and Ray Soto
Sisters of St Francis, Sylvania
St Joseph Church, Sylvania
Sr Lucille Schmitmeyer
Ron Todd

Kwanzaa Park Neighbors Meet

The Kwanzaa Park Neighbors/Block Watch meets at Padua Center on the first Thursday of each month from 6:00-7:30 PM, except in January and February. Although the group is small, they continue to gain important information about the community and community services. Yvonne Harper, District 4 Councilwoman often visits and informs the group of upcoming legislation, answers questions, and provides information.

The next meeting is on October 3, 2019 with the Lucas County Health Department. A representative will present information about the tobacco and smoking cessation programs.

In addition, the Kwanzaa Park Neighbors coordinates the Rummage Sale at the Chicken Fest and Kwanzaa /Open House Celebration held in December at Padua Center. Details regarding these events will be available soon.



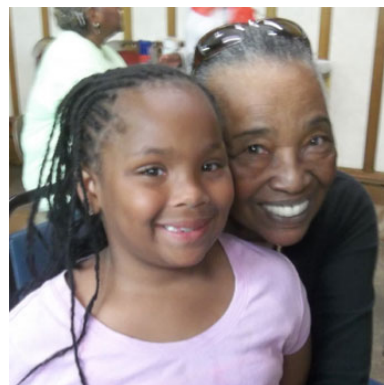
Rose Ellis smiles with Christian who looks as though some mischief is right around the corner!



Roni Flaggs and Pat Meinert prepare lunches provided by Connecting Kids to Meals for the children.



Sister Fidelis Rubbo with a child.



Twyla Wheaton and Londin after a Vacation Bible School class.