



Padua Ponderings

Spring 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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Padua Center Board Strategic Planning

Every organization periodically has to step back and evaluate who they are and where they are going. Several factors led Padua Center to step aside and do some strategic planning this past year. Because of the change in discipline policy at Toledo Public School, schools are no longer using the Padua Possibilities Program to maximum effect. Change of personnel also prompted Padua Center to step back and re-evaluate.

During fall of 2018, Padua Center employed Jake Burgoon of the MetriKs Amérique to do an evaluation. A Community Accelerator Grant from the Toledo Community Foundation funded the project. The Padua Board used the results from this report to revise the strategic plan.

Bret Huntebrinker of the Diocese of Toledo, met with the Padua Board for about six hours, over three months, to help the Padua Center Board to review the mission, core purpose and core values to begin to develop SMART Goals under the Strategic Anchors.



Keeping' It Local Summer Camps

Once again voices from Padua Center will fill the hallways and the neighborhood with excitement as some twenty or more children enjoy our summer camps. Ms. Brookelyn Phillips, Educational Leader at Padua Center organized six weeks of exciting camps. In addition to the camps, there are a number of other activities to supplement the children's experience.

The theme this summer is Keepin It Local. This theme will assist the children in understanding some local gems in Northwest Ohio. Connecting Kids to Meals will provide lunches.



Kwanzaa Park Neighbors Monthly Meetings

Meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month. The meeting is also the neighborhood Block Watch meeting. Recent speakers included:

Adam Cassi, of the Keep Toledo, Lucas County Beautiful
Cynthia Wiles of the Water Department
Officer Donald Scott, Community Police



Our next meeting will be on July 11 at 6:00 PM (the date changed due to the Fourth of July celebrations). Please come join us!

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Last summer, because of the possible demolition of St. Anthony Church, the Ujima Urban Agriculture program didn't get much attention. This year, Roger Whickum is beginning with great enthusiasm! He recruited a helper and they procured two loads of compost and mulch.

They devised numerous ways to deter the groundhogs and rabbits and are taking produce to the Farmers' Market. Board Member, Oscar Shaheer owns a stand at the market and sells the produce for Padua. At this point, we already sold 5 pounds of spinach and some herbs!

Stop by and look at the beautiful garden. There are also growing areas behind the Center and in the Hoop House! Fair warning, if you stand in one place too long our gardeners will recruit you to pull weeds!



Gardener Roger Whickum (right) and Michael McCown are checking out the potatoes that got a healthy start this Spring.

Padua Center Needs Your Help!

Padua Center will use two grants to start renovating. Still, the Center needs your help to complete the project. In August, after the children are gone and the camps completed, Chittum Painting will paint the exterior of Padua Center.



A grant from the Anderson's via the Toledo Community Foundation provided half of the funds needed for the project. Padua Center still needs \$6,500 to complete the job.

The Port Authority committed up to \$25,000 for a new roof for Padua Center. This project still needs \$10,000 for completion.

If you can support either project with a donation, please contact Padua Center to make your gift.

Summer Camp Fun!



Photos from 2018 Camp sessions

Summer camps are a lot of fun for the children and they also provide much needed relief for parents and grandparents during the summer vacation. The camps at Padua Center also partner with Connecting Kids to Meals to provide free breakfast and lunch each day. During the summer of 2018, Padua Center held the camps elsewhere because of the planned demolition of St. Anthony Church. This summer all camps will be at Padua Center.

2019 Summer camps are:

Vacation Bible School

Safari Explorers: Plants, Earth, and Animals

Fitness Foodies-Discovering ways to live Healthy and Happy

Art is Magic: Express Yourself

Metroparks Connections Camp-Pierson Metropark

Emerging Young Ladies and Grooming Great Gentlemen



Emerging Young Ladies Update

From January until May a group of young ladies met at Padua Center to talk about growing up. Nurse Adrienne Castellanos spoke with them about body changes. Agneta Seeley brought in sewing machines and the girls made pillow slips.

The girls also began working on their life goals. Dr. Mary “Mimi” Nicholson is supporting this program for our young ladies. Padua Center is very grateful for this support and hopes to expand the program next year. Our last week of summer camp will offer a younger version of Emerging Young Ladies and Grooming Great Gentlemen.



Aniah, a future engineer in our midst!

Summer Youth Workers Strive to be Experts

Thanks to a grant from the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, this summer youth workers have an additional twenty-four hours of job readiness training.

Padua Center Board members and community business representatives will lead the sessions. Sessions include: Job Readiness, Problem Solving and Resume Writing. The training will also address other employment needs.

Pathstone Trainees Work to Support Padua Center



Kim McFann bags the Panera Bread donation on Monday mornings.

Pathstone provides trainees through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) for individuals age 55 and older. This past year, several Pathstone participants trained at Padua Center providing valuable support to the Center.

Myra Cavanaugh and Lupe Villolovos recently completed their training at Padua Center. Presently, Kim McFann and Brent Hutson serve as support staff through the program. Padua Center is awaiting word of two additional workers.



Donors (January 1 - May 15, 2019)

Jason Askins
Chuck Boyle
Beverly Stephens-Davis
Buzz and Ellen Ditto
Harry and Annita Flanagan
Mary Jane Flores
Kathryn and Rob Gilsdorf
Rochelle and Tom Hite
Gerald and Jeannine Hoeffel Foundation
Judy Hofmann
Holy Spirit Catholic Community
Marcy Kaptur - TCF
Christine and Michael Powers
Odessa Rowan
Jerome Ceille and Irma Santiago
Thomas and Mary Sheffler
St. Joseph of Monroe Ct. CC
Joseph Tafelski
Richard and Georgianne Torchia
Bob Welsh
Kandan Williams



Tenth Annual Urban Chicken Fest

Come Join the Fun!

Saturday, July 20, 2019 (11:00AM – 5:00PM)

BBQ Chicken, Polish Sausages, Hot Dogs

The Urban Chicken Festival takes place behind Padua Center. It begins after the African American Parade. Funds raised from the event benefit the work of Padua Center. For more information, please call Padua Center at (419) 241-6465.

Rummage Sale
Bargains
Entertainment and Bingo!

Children can play games, have fun!
Free Admission.

Raffle Drawing takes place at 5:00PM

Tickets
\$1 per ticket, 6 tickets for \$5
6 tickets books for \$25

