



Padua Ponderings



unity, self-determination, collective work, cooperative economics, faith, purpose and creativity

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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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“Peaces” of Art Features Arto Woodley

Through Board Member Norman Hinton, Padua Center confirmed that Arto Woodley will be the guest speaker for “Peaces of Art” on October 4, 2015 from 5:00-8:00 PM at the Sullivan Center. Arto Woodley lives by the words of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President Emeritus of Morehouse:

“The tragedy of life is not failing to reach one’s goals. It is failing to have any goals to reach.”



Arto Woodley

Woodley has focused his life on fulfilling the vision God gave him to develop leaders and rebuild cities. An urban innovator, he led an inner city nonprofit from 1998-2014 where he created a model to equip young leaders starting at preschool. He served as the Strong Cities Strong Communities Fellow from 2012-2014 for Chester, Pennsylvania, and as an advisor to the mayor to develop public-private partnerships. Arto has served in one capacity or another in higher education, social services, government and ministry. Woodley earned his degrees at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and Widener University in Pennsylvania. He emphasizes living a life that inspires others to fulfill their God-given potential. He is also passionate about connecting academia in meaningful ways to urban cities to build capacity and sustainability.

Woodley is a perfect choice for our “Peaces” of Art program because his involvement in developing leaders in the central city is exactly what Padua Center does. He will inspire us to continue our noble work in assisting children with behavior challenges find new ways of directing their energies and to develop into the leaders of tomorrow.

Our Deepest Condolences

Padua Center extends prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Rev. Joseph Jaros, a benefactor of Padua Center and a longtime friend of Sister Virginia Welsh. Fr. Joe never missed sending in a donation to support Padua Center.



Chicken Fest Food and Fun for All

Once again warm weather, great friends, and super chicken made the Seventh Annual Chicken Fest a success.

Thanks to the many volunteers, especially for Joann Reed of Kwanzaa Park Neighbors, Knights of Columbus #386, parishioners of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Board Members and employees of Padua Center.

Winners from the 2015 Raffle

3rd Prize: DVD player to Tom Dibling

2nd Prize: Tablet to Leanne Valdes

1st Prize: Beats to Rose M. Hawkins

Thanks for your support!



A visit from the Fire Department is always a hit at the Festival. The children enjoy seeing the Fire Truck and getting fire hats!



Does Padua Center Make a Difference?

Garrell Coleman's Story — Now and Then



At age 18, Garrell Coleman is helping Dylan Liechty in the after school tutoring program in May, 2015.

Garrell Coleman came back to volunteer at Padua Center when he needed some service hours for his Senior Year. This is his story:

I was only 10 years old when I met Sister Ginny. She welcomed me and my friends with open arms to a new program she was starting. She introduced me to new skills I could use to better myself in life, such as Braille, American Sign Language, and table manners.



Garrell Coleman at age 10 pictured at Padua Center during some after school tutoring.

I am now an 18 year old high school senior, and a soon to be a US Army soldier. Without the guidance of Padua Center I don't know where I would be in life.

The fun and educational experience I've had prepared me for the real world. I have better people skills, confidence, respect, responsibility, and love for others. I find it amazing how one program can turn a child's entire life around, especially one living in a poor neighborhood.

—Garrell Coleman

Partnerships in the Community

“We get by with a little help from our friends!” This is the theme song of Padua Center. During the summer of 2015 Padua Center numerous agencies and providers blessed us with assistance.

Camp Counselors and Summer Workers

Notre Dame Academy:

Mycala Duhart, Imani Hinton

Lucas County Empowerment Program:

Diamond Fears, Natozsha Rodgers, Antoria Stewart, and Ruben Perry

Face Forward Program:

Shaundrea Bureson, Cortisha Conner, Brooke Maxcy-Tipton

Student Training for Employment Preparation Program:

Willie Mullins, Richsawn Ticey, Terrance Taylor

ToledoGrows:

Tiffany Jenkins

Lourdes University:

Jayda Townsend

Camp Coordinator:

Peter Nguyen from Community Health Project



Mycala Duhart and some of the children experience the Toledo Zoo.

Comments from Program Participants

“Padua Center is a great first work experience for me. A very great comfortable community center! I’ve learned from the good and bad, and hard work pays off. Padua Center helped me a lot-- from staying out of trouble to doing something positive and productive. Being here I went to places I never go. We shared a great experience and lots of fun times. Happy moments with the children! I really enjoyed my summer here at Padua Center.”-Natozsha Rodgers.

“Padua Center is a wonderful community center. I’ve had my ups and downs, but in the end I’ve learned a lot. When I first started working here wonderful people welcomed me with open arms. Padua Center treats everyone like they’re family. The Center leaves no-one out! One of the things I love most about the Center is even though it is summer the kids still do school work and learn new things as they still have fun. Cleaning up the mess and watching the kids is a wonderful test. Another thing I love is fabuloso smell after we clean! I will miss working here and everyone here, so sad to leave.”-Diamond Fears

Thanks to our Lunch Ladies: Roni Flaggs and Pat Meinert!

Veronica Flaggs celebrated her birthday at Padua Center. For four summers, Roni has been our “Lunch Lady” getting lunches from Feed Lucas County Children, serving the lunches and returning the coolers. This summer she recruited her friend, Pat to help. Thanks to Roni and Pat for great lunches!



Veronica Flaggs

Friends of Padua Center Fund the Summer Camps

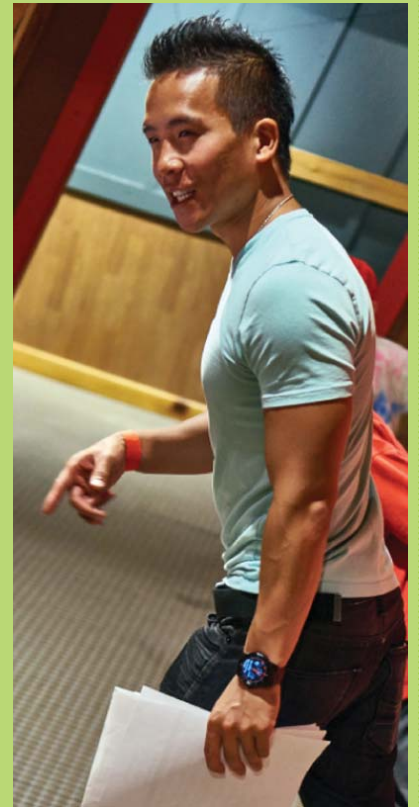
Imagination Station was a hit. Also the children loved the gardening, inventions and playing.

Sports camp included tennis, swimming and soccer. Vacation Bible School had the theme of Heroes Headquarters.

This summer, Padua Center did not receive a grant for the summer programs. Padua Center children thank our many benefactors including these individuals who sponsored outings:

Tom and Rochelle Hite
Chris and Mike Powers
Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Jane Moore
Sisters of St. Francis in Tiffin

Mt. Nebo and St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Churches assisted with transportation and Dr. Janis Brown of the University of Toledo provided fees and transportation for the trip to Imagination Station.



Peter Nguyen of the University of Toledo Medical College, served as Camp Director for Summer 2015. His energy, skill, and great compassion for the children made him a GREAT Director. Peter came to Padua Center through the Community Health Program of the University of Toledo. Good luck to Peter as he completes Medical training.

Children Receive Free Piano Lessons Through the Toledo Symphony

Through a grant from the Toledo Symphony children in the after school program and during summer school have had the opportunity to take piano lessons from Mr. John Cleveland.

Once every week, Mr. Cleveland comes to the Center and teaches children the basics of piano playing. Through the gift of two keyboards and a piano, the children can practice during the week and be ready for their lessons. The children enjoy having time to play the piano and also explore the world of sound and music.

Mr. Cleveland, a retired librarian, offered his musical skills to provide music during the Chicken Fest. A great entertainer, he kept the music flowing to the delight of the guests.



Mr. John Cleveland gives two students piano lessons during Padua Center summer camps. Thanks, John!

Eagles Scouts Complete Their Projects at Padua Center



John Harvey and Brad Kroma each completed their Eagle Scout projects at Padua Center. They join four other Eagles Scouts who have contributed to the development of the Center through their activities.

John Harvey and his other scouts helpers spent a day of very hard work refinishing the stair case from first to second floor. They sanded, patched and varnished the flight of stairs. Brad Kroma, supported by his father, Tom Kroma, and his grandfather erected three signs. Informative and attractive signs welcome visitors regardless of how they enter Padua Center. The signs have plexiglas fronts and are waterproof; they require no maintenance. Attached magnets provide timely information.



Thank you, Eagle Scout candidates, John and Brad!

Special Friends and Special Gifts Highlight Summer Camps

The Ursuline Foundation surprised Padua Center with a \$5,000 gift. This gift assured that our children had a great summer, as well as making sure we could pay the bills.

A Thank You breakfast allowed our donors to see all the good things happening at Padua Center.

Some other summer camps gifts were from:

Mary Sawyers
Chris and Mike Powers
Tom and Rochelle Hite
Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union
Medical Mutual of Ohio
Jane Moore
Dr. Irma Santiago and Jerry Ceille



Donors and Volunteers

Donations Received from July 1-30, 2015

During the July 2014-June 2015 fiscal year volunteers donated 340 hours of service. That totals to \$7,845.00 worth of service. Padua Center has many groups that volunteer and also takes advantage of many programs that place workers into non-profit agencies.

Organizations Providing Summer Workers

Face Forward
Lucas County Employment Program
Summer Teen Employment Preparation Program
Experience Works
Community Health Project (UT Medical School)
Mercy Community Health Workers

Volunteers for Chicken Fest

K of C #386, St. Martin de Porres Parishioners
Kwanzaa Park Neighbors
Joann Reed
Padua Board
Martin Porter, Chef



General Donors

Jan Tewell
Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin
Buzz and Ellen Ditto
Tom and Rochelle Hite
Coleena Ali
Jay and Susan Koester
Chris and Michael Powers
June Landry
Michael and Tracy Harmon
Moreatha Flaggs



Memorial Gifts

Ardys Dellinger
in honor of Barbara Harmon

