



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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Summer Camps - Educational and Fun

As the excitement in the country mounts over the upcoming election, the children at Padua Center voted also this summer. They voted for Jesus during the Vacation Bible School. With the help of the Catholic Heart Work Camp Volunteers the campers reflected upon being “Earthkeepers.”

A week focused on health followed voting for the garden. Toledo Grows assisted with the educational programs about gardening that were held throughout the summer.

Voting for peace was important and the children organized a Peace Parade, escorted by Officer Jim Below. They carried flags and wore hats that had peaceful sayings on them.

Voting for travel led the children to the Imagination Station, the Great Lakes Marine Museum, the African American Museum, the Fire Fighters Museum and the Toledo Art Museum.

Art Camp finished out the summer and the children produced beautiful pieces of art that will be part of the Peaces of Art Fundraiser on October 9, 2016 at the Sullivan Center at Gesu. Buy your ticket NOW.



Perhaps, a budding Serena?



Several children try out the motor cycles with the Buffalo Soldiers.

Thanks to our Summer Camp Donors

Tom and Zara Shaw
Renee Dougherty
Jan Tewell
Paul and Deb Johnson
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James and Nancy Bingle
Elaine Sheehan
Kathleen Welsh
Tim and Laura Galvin
Douglas and Dorothy Heinlen
Moreatha Flaggs
Christine and Mike Powers
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Lining up for the Peace Parade.



A Catholic Heart Work Camp volunteer poses with some of the children.



Everyone lines up for a picture after an active game of soccer during the Sports Camp.

Chicken Fest 2016

Once again the Chicken Fest brought forth friends and supporters, neighbors and service organizations to raise money for Padua Center Summer Programs. New this year was bingo that was played in Padua Center living room. A small but devoted group of players kept the cards and the fun going.

This year the Chicken Fest was held in July, rather than in June. Holding the festival later we were able to utilize the energy of our LCEP workers and engage the children from our summer camps. What do you think of the later date?

Special Donors for our Chicken Fest

Earma Blakely of the \$1.50 Store (chicken)
Nickels Bakery (bread)
Renita (cole slaw)
Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (hot dogs)
Blessed Sacrament Parish (kids' prizes)
Mike and Tracy Harmon (two new bikes)
Padua Board Members (pop)
Culligan Water (water)

Thanks to all our volunteers especially to our famous Chef Martin Porter and friends! The chicken was delicious!

Winner of the Prizes

3rd Place – Leona Moore-Ash (Headphones)
2nd Place - Rob and Cindy Downs (Camera)
1st Place - Shirley Jarnigan (iPad)



Thanks to our donors and volunteers Padua Center raised nearly \$2,000 at Chicken Fest!

Darling Wright Serves as Communication Intern

Darling Wright, a Lourdes College student served as Communication Intern this summer and assisted Sr. Virginia with many communication tasks. She developed signs for our new sign boards advertizing the Chicken Fest and the Kwanzaa Park Neighbors Meeting. She learned how to put together a newsletter, such as this one, and to develop a timeline for communications.

Not only did she help with communications, she also arranged for the children to visit the Indian Creek Zoo (free admission) and on occasion she assisted in transporting the children to and from the summer venues.

Another of her important duties is organizing, and leading the Kwanzaa Park Neighbors meetings. This neighborhood meeting keeps all the friends of the Padua Center informed on Blockwatch, the city and county services, and other service groups in the city. The monthly meeting is a focus of the neighborhood development. Thanks Darling for all you do!



Founding Director of Padua Center Celebrates Milestone This Summer



Sister Virginia Welsh, osf, founding director of Padua Center, celebrates 50 years as a Franciscan Sister on two occasions: August 14, at 1:30 PM in Tiffin, Ohio and on September 25, at the 10:30 Mass at St. Martin de Porres Parish in Toledo.

Little did she think fifty years ago that she would be the founding director of a neighborhood center, a Pastoral Leader of a Central City Parish and a passionate advocate for justice, but that is what has happened in the last fifty years for Sister Virginia Welsh.

Sister Virginia (also known as Sr. Ginny), was born in Carey, Ohio and entered the Sisters of St. Francis in Tiffin, Ohio right out of High School. She received her education at Mary Manse College and Loyola University of Chicago.

With a music and education background she became a fourth grade teacher at St. Boniface School in Oak Harbor and also the accompanist for the choir. After five years of teaching she moved to St. John's Parish in Delphos where she became a Pastoral Associate in the parish and led a number of programs centered on faith development.

Upon coming to Toledo St. Mary's Parish she continued as a Pastoral Associate and then became the first Pastoral Leader for the parish. She left St. Mary's parish to serve as Community Minister of the Sisters of St. Francis in Tiffin, an elected position she held for eight years.

Having completed her term of office she was invited by the Diocese of Toledo to start an outreach center in the rectory of the former St. Anthony of Padua Parish. On October 16, 2006 (just 10 years ago) Padua Center was opened. There has been a continual challenge in addressing the ever changing needs of the neighborhood, but, she has been up to the challenge.

In 2008, she assumed leadership of St. Martin de Porres Parish. The Diocese moved The Padua Center to be a ministry of St. Martin de Porres Parish.



Lucas County Empowerment Workers Aide Padua Center Staff



"My favorite part of this year's camp was seeing all of the animals"
-Imani Hinton



"My favorite part of this summer was seeing all the smiling faces and learning new work skills for my future."
-Robert Cook

Summer Gardening Fun

Gardening and caring for Earth is a key component to Padua Center. Ken Sendlebach and Otha Carr look over the greens that got a head start in the hoop house and were ready for market early. Produce from the Ujima Urban Agriculture Project has been taken to the Farmer's Market and has been sold by board member Oscar Shaheer. Otha and his summer helpers Jaylin Mixon, Malayzhia Jones, and Robert Cook tended to the produce, weeded, watered (a lot this summer), and harvested the produce.

In addition to the gardening, Toledo Grows provided hour long educational sessions, once a week, for the children. Healthy eating, brings healthy growing, and a healthy life - the goal of Padua Center.



Donors from May 1—July 31, 2016

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Anita Garraway

Bill and Cathy Carroll

Buzz and Ellen Ditto

Carol Jackson

Chris and Mike Powers

Clancy Yeager

Coleena Ali

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