



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

Padua Center
 1416 Nebraska Avenue
 Toledo, Ohio 43607
 (419) 241-6465
 www.paduacenter.org
Location for June, July 2018
1119 W Bancroft Street
Toledo, Ohio 43606

Padua Center Activities Moving for June and July

This summer you may find yourself driving down Nebraska Avenue and seeing road closings, detours, and general disruptions. You will be able to watch the tenth tallest church steeple in the United States come down, as the demolition company razes St. Anthony Church. You may be asking, “What happened to Padua Center? Is it closed?”

NO! Padua Center will re-open in August, after the demolition. When it re-opens we will have a fresh look. In the meantime, all Padua Center activities will continue at St. Martin de Porres at 1119 West Bancroft Street. Padua Center will hold the following regular events at the St. Martin de Porres campus:

- Kwanzaa Park Neighbors meetings June 7, July 5, and August 2, all at 6:00 PM
- Community Solidarity Response Network, Tuesdays at 6:00 PM
- NA meeting Sundays at 3:30 PM
- Summer Camps which run daily from June 18-July 27, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
- Come check us out at a new location and be part of the grand re-opening of Padua Center in August!

Most of the furniture will remain in Padua Center during our temporary relocation although volunteers can be helpful during the last week of May as academic and summer camp materials move to St. Martin de Porres. If you can help, please call (419)241-6465. Every bit of help can make the move easier.



Padua Center Obtains 501(c)3 Status

Because of the proximity of Padua Center to St. Anthony Church there was a great possibility that the demolition company might also need to raze it. After several meetings and conversations, the Diocese of Toledo committed to try to save Padua Center building during the demolition of St. Anthony Church. As part of the 'new' Padua Center the diocese requested that Padua Center become its own nonprofit corporation and no longer operate under the sponsorship of St. Martin de Porres Parish and the Diocese of Toledo. Padua Center will remain a ministerial outreach of St. Martin de Porres Parish and Sister Virginia Welsh, Executive Director of Padua Center and Pastoral Leader of St. Martin de Porres will continue in her present positions. May 1, 2018 marked the official status of Padua Center as a non-profit corporation. A Padua Center tax exempt number will soon be available. In the meantime, St. Martin de Porres Parish, which is already tax exempt will process donations to Padua Center. The Board of Padua Center remains the same and the center file its by-laws.

Transitions and Changes

Padua Center began on October 16, 2006. From the beginning the easiest way to describe its location was "right next to the big church." Soon, that designation will end, and Padua Center will have to assure a new identity.

As with all transitions and changes there are numerous feelings and people ask why the church needs razing. Certainly, it is "too bad" that we must raze this neighborhood icon, but years of being vacant and not maintained will take a toll on any structure.

With no one wishing to buy the church or to re-purpose it, deteriorating and potentially dangerous events were inevitable. Falling bricks and windows alerted everyone to the need for a permanent resolution. Because Padua Center is so close there was a great concern for the safety of the children and adults who come to Padua Center for programs. Bishop Thomas decided that demolition of the church is necessary for safety sake. The scheduled demolition is June 1 through July 31. There will be lots of activity at this site, but all Padua Center will move all its activities during this time.



Volunteering - A Great Way to Help and Give Back

In March 2018, Padua Center lost several workers and needed to replace them. A call went out for volunteers and the response has been heartening. June Boyd (left) and Shannon Johnson (right) joined Linda Overall in volunteering to work with the children, answering phones, recording summer campers, and helping in a myriad of ways. The Center needs more volunteers, but thanks to these women Padua Center continues to run efficiently.



Summer Camps On the Move

This summer we have five week-long summer camps. These camps are completely free to children and are lots of fun. Working with “Connecting Kids to Meals” we can provide free hot lunches every day to the children. We also have a breakfast program. All children who attend the summer camps have the opportunity for one hour of academic activities each day. This summer, because of some demolition that is taking place at Padua Center site, we will move the summer camps to St. Martin de Porres School. Because of this move we are having one less camp this summer.

June 18-23 Follow the Leader (Vacation Bible School)

June 25-29 Keep it Movin’ (Sports Camp)

July 9-13 Moving to Stay Healthy (Health and Garden)

July 16-20 Shades and Rhythm (Art and Music)

July 23-27 Metro Parks (Connection Camp)

To enroll your children in the Summer Camps call Padua Center as soon as possible at (419) 241-6465.



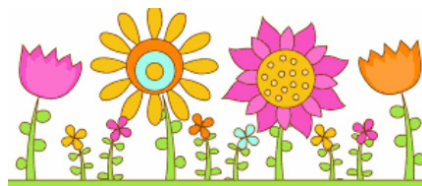
Children learned to make paper from recycled materials and planted flowers as part of the 2017 Summer Camps. More exciting activities this summer!



Gardening News

This summer the Ujima Park and Garden has been getting lots of attention and care by volunteer Roger Whickum. Roger has been busy planting and has the Hoop House filled with greens and early plants that will be ready for re-planting into the garden beds.

Roger has elicited the help of his sister and other volunteers to plant, weed, mow, and beautify the garden area. Because of the demolition of St. Anthony church, Padua Center will not plant the Edible, Playable Fitness Ground this summer. Look for lots of produce next year!



St. Anthony Park? Playground?

Are you a dreamer? If so, what is your dream for the corner of Junction and Nebraska Avenues? For over 100 years one of the tallest churches in the United States has anchored this corner of the city. This summer, St. Anthony Church will be torn down and there will be a very large piece of land vacant. What do you think should be there?

- *Kwanzaa Park Neighbors like the idea of a contemplative space, a park. Having a place to sit, decorative tree, bushes, and flowers would add a place to pause, rest, and perhaps pray.*
- *Children would like an expansion of the playground. It would be great to have a slide added to our play area.*
- *Padua Center Board is looking at driveways, parking lots and perhaps making the side entrance of the Padua Center the main entrance.*

What are your ideas? Please send any ideas to Padua Center Board. You can email your ideas to: thepaduacenter@gmail.com. Let us hear from you!

Education Still Number One at Padua Center

With all the challenges and changes that are part of The Padua Center one thing remains on top: helping kids! Presently we have three active children's programs making a difference in the lives of children.

This year Padua Possibilities served seventy-three children referred from our contracted Toledo Public Schools and another fifteen children referred through other agencies. Padua Possibilities Program is an alternative to suspension for children, grades K-6.

Four expelled children attended the Restoring Possibilities program for a total of thirty-two days. These children maintain their school work and return either to their original school or a new school up to date with other children.



Teacher Brooke Philips and her Aide Heather Austin assist a student with her school work.

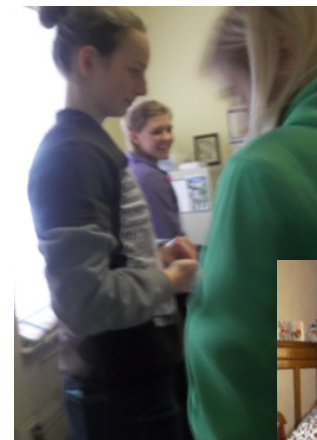


Asiah Nelson poses with a helper during the after-school program. Children receive help with homework and develop social skills.

Donors from 2017-2018

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BGSU Students helping (left).



Phyllis Toney and Connie Boyle at Christmas Open House (right).