

2022 Report to the Community



nextdoor
— Stronger Families Through Education —

Doing the Most Important Work in Milwaukee

Meet our New President

I am honored to write to you as Next Door's new President, as of January 2023. I am thankful to Dr. Tracey Sparrow, Next Door staff, and our Board of Directors for helping in my transition.

Every day, I am astonished by the incredible people, programming, and services that comprise Next Door. Our reach and impact across Milwaukee is remarkable in the critical capacities we serve children and their families each day.

Originally from the Milwaukee area, I have worked in education for over 20 years, primarily as a teacher and school administrator. As a leader, I am passionate about mission, strategic planning, and culture-building – particularly when rooted in ensuring access to quality educational opportunities for all children.

The following pages illustrate the many ways Next Door continues to provide transformational experiences through early childhood education. Together with our families, we teach and guide our



students during their most rapid period of brain development and build the foundation for future success in school and in life.

Thank you for your warm welcome, and if we have not yet met, I look forward to connecting soon. We greatly appreciate your support – and couldn't meet our mission without you.

Heather Mehring Grams

Heather Mehring Grams
Next Door President

Thank You, Dr. Sparrow!

After seven years as Next Door's President, Dr. Tracey Sparrow retired from Next Door in December 2022. She left her mark on Next Door in many significant ways, including new and impactful community partnerships, increased personal and professional support for staff, innovative programming, and a steadfast commitment to the organization during the pandemic. We are grateful for her leadership, ambition, and compassion for Next Door, and we wish her the very best in her retirement.



We enrich our children's lives with new, engaging experiences at Next Door, always striving to creatively find ways we can expand our students' knowledge of and experiences in the world. Pictured is Janiyah, exploring a beautiful harp during a family engagement event with a musician from the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, one of our new community partners in 2022.

Our Center-Based Program

Every day, Next Door welcomes hundreds of children – from six weeks to age five – to our 29th Street and Capitol Drive campuses for impactful early childhood programming.

We provide children with their first classroom-based experiences and focus on building academic, social-emotional, and physical development. We add further engagement outside the classroom in our libraries, art studios, hallways, indoor and outdoor play spaces, and at family events. **Below is a look at our impact for the 2021-2022 school year.**



651

children served
across 2 campuses



1,831

screenings covering
hearing, vision, lead
and dental health



114

children connected
to community
resources for mental
health/disability services



85%
or more

of children met or exceeded our
benchmark in six core academic
areas, including literacy and
social-emotional learning

15,244

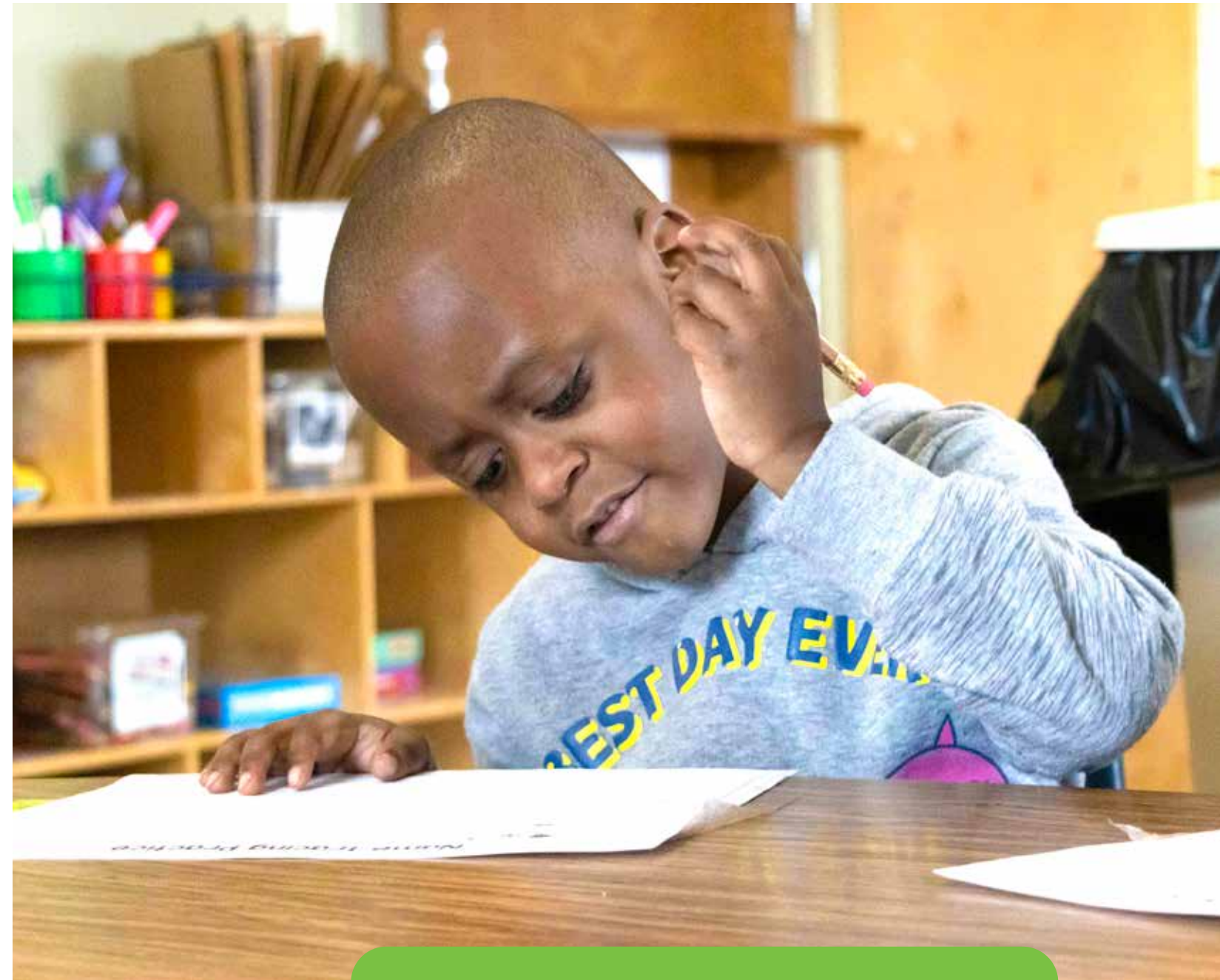


free books provided
to children to build
home libraries

3,106



direct parent-staff
connections (like family
goal setting, classroom
transitions, home visits
and engagement events)



Devon is diligently working on his number tracing – practicing the number “1” at this time. The activity is part of a daily worksheet exercise in his K4 classroom. Building early writing development through tracing is one of the ways Next Door is preparing children for elementary school. Our teachers often intertwine disciplines – like writing and math – to expand learning opportunities for students and accelerate their growth.

Expanding Learning Opportunities

Robotics Education

Next Door students, Asher and Trenton, are learning how to program and operate the *Code & Go Robot Mouse*. **This is one of the new robotics tools that 194 students in K4 and K5 are using to develop an early understanding of concepts like coding, while problem solving and building important life skills.**

Teachers are also using books, Smartboard exercises, and sets of directional cards for children to program for various activities. They are aligning the robotics lessons with classroom curriculum so children can expand on what they are learning every day, with particular emphasis on literacy and math.



Art Education

In 2022, Next Door expanded art education with the hiring of a full-time Arts Education Coordinator. She works directly with children, like Rayina, pictured here. At the time, Rayina and her classmates were designing flowers with watercolors and crayons as part of a celebration of spring.

The coordinator plans programming for children ages two to five years old. She engages with them in our art studios and in classrooms. She also supports our Home-Based students by providing kits for at-home projects and offers additional touch points with art during family engagement events throughout the year.



Creating Life Experiences



Schlitz Audubon Nature Center Field Trips



Meeting Milwaukee Firefighters



Scholastic Book Fair



Wisconsin Conservatory of Music



Salsabrositas Latin Dance Team



First Stage Theater Academy

Our Home-Based Program

Next Door's Home-Based Program offers year-round pregnancy support for expecting mothers and serves families of young children with early childhood education and student support services.

Our Parent Educators visit families once a week, offer services in multiple languages, coach parents on effective teaching tools, and help ensure families' basic needs are met. We also plan special events for our families at Next Door to provide additional services, story time in the library, and play date experiences.

Below is a look at our impact for the 2021-2022 school year.



238

pregnant moms + families with children birth to five served



4,151

home visits (90 minutes each)



400

screenings covering hearing, vision, lead and dental health



2,667

free books provided to children to build home libraries



Support provided in

9

languages (including Burmese, Chin, Hmong, Karen and Rohingya)



37,276

free diapers provided to families



Next Door Parent Educator, Sana, meets weekly with Paw Kaw at her home in Milwaukee. Over the past year, Sana has guided her through her pregnancy with prenatal assessments, resources to keep mom and baby healthy, and techniques to support babies like infant massage. Paw Kaw and her husband have two other children – both former Next Door students. Our Parent Educators further support families by ensuring they have access to food, wellness exams, counseling services and holiday gifts.

Our Child Care Partnership Program

Since 2015, Next Door has been the leader of a Child Care Partnership (CCP) program with early childhood organizations across Milwaukee. This program strives to improve the quality of learning at our 13 partnership sites through year-round training and professional development for teachers from Next Door Instructional Coaches.

In addition, Next Door Family Advocates support families at the partnership sites with household goals and needs. We also offer healthcare resources and special education services. **A list of our partnership sites is included below, as well as statistics highlighting our impact during the 2021-2022 school year.**



Coaching support for



155
teachers

4,825



free books provided
to children to build
home libraries



4

teacher JumpStart conferences
hosted by Next Door



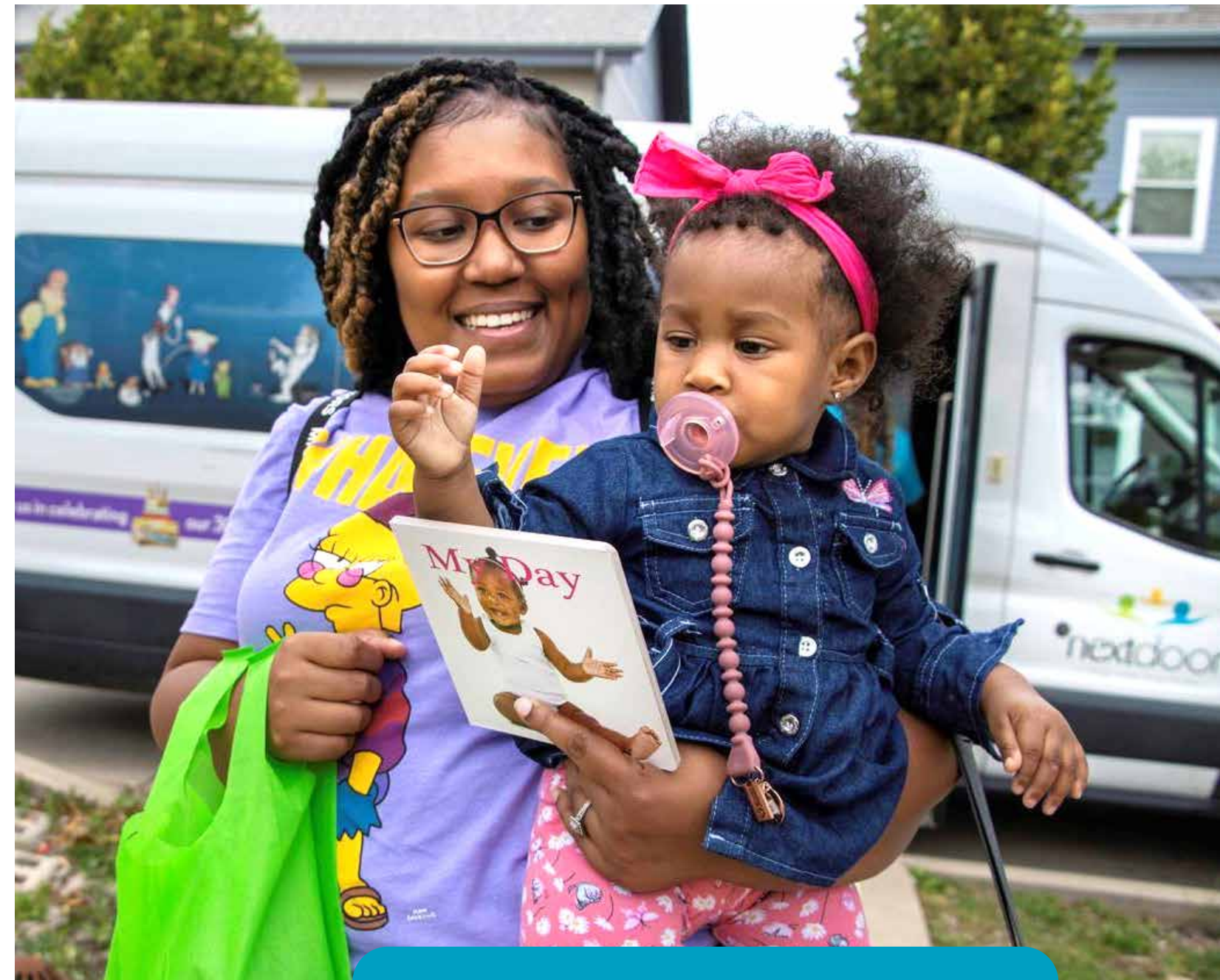
504

direct parent-staff connections
(like family goal setting,
classroom transitions, home
visits and engagement events)



691

screenings covering hearing,
vision, lead and dental health



Latrice and her daughter Si'Anna are a family from the Elaine Schreiber Child Development Center – one of Next Door's 13 early childhood partnership sites in Milwaukee. Here, they stopped by Next Door's Mobile Library to select free books to build their home library. Our Mobile Library visits each partner site quarterly to distribute books to young children and host family literacy activities.

Our New Workforce Development Strategy

To most effectively serve our children and families, we need to continually invest in our staff. In 2022, we enhanced our investment in workforce development through the creation of a new department dedicated entirely to this critical area. We are:

- Recruiting and developing men and women interested in teaching in response to the growing teacher shortage
- Providing career advancement opportunities and year-round professional development programming for our current staff
- Supporting staff with resources to remove obstacles to successful employment at Next Door



Pathways Program

- 6 unique Pathways to earn early childhood credentials, Associate's degrees, and Bachelor's degrees – at no cost to participants
- Open to public and Next Door employees
- 32 people completed one or more pathways since the program began in 2021

Success Coaches

- Providing one-on-one employee support for personal/professional goals
- Addressing areas like personal finances, home-buying, and resume/interview coaching to advance within Next Door
- 133 completed action plans during the 2021-2022 school year

Professional Development Team

- Organizing year-round professional development days/trainings for staff
- 180+ hours of programming provided to teachers in the 2021-2022 school year
- Supported additional agency-wide trainings in Trauma Sensitive Schools, Compassion Resilience, Financial Wellness and Stress Management



Community Partner Spotlights

Community partnerships are one of the ways we enhance our impact on the children we serve each year. Next Door currently partners with more than 30 local and national organizations who support the academic, social-emotional, and physical health needs of our young learners.



Brook Lopez and the NBPA

Brook Lopez with the Milwaukee Bucks partners with Next Door as part of his "Blocks for Books" program.

For every block he makes during the season, he contributes funding that helps Next Door purchase new books for children across our programming and build their home libraries. His gifts are matched by the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) Foundation, which has resulted in more than 25,000 new books for Next Door students.



The Literacy Lab

Next Door partners with The Literacy Lab and its Leading Men Fellowship to provide young men of color the opportunity to serve as early childhood educators for a year.

The fellows receive training/coaching from The Literacy Lab and work alongside our teachers to support our children's education. These young men also provide needed male role models for our students. We currently have four graduates of the fellowship teaching at Next Door.



LENA

Our partnership with LENA, or Language Environmental Analysis, provides special recording devices to track the quantity and timing of conversational interactions between students and teachers during the school day. We place the devices in vests worn by our children. This work guides coaching to improve classroom language instruction at Next Door and our partnership sites.



Milwaukee Area Technical College

We partner with Milwaukee Area Technical College on our Pathways workforce development program to provide Next Door teachers, like Debra, a chance to advance their education and teaching position.

MATC supports several of our pathways through coursework that leads to an Infant Toddler Badge, an Early Childcare Educator Technical Diploma, and an Associate's degree in early childhood education. MATC staff have also worked with Next Door to evolve Pathways programming to fit our students' schedules and needs.



Ignite Child Development Services

Next Door is the first Wisconsin organization to partner with Ignite Child Development Services. **Ignite provides on-site specialists daily to serve children with autism and behavioral challenges.** The specialists work with students one-on-one in and outside of the classroom. They have been especially important in light of a rise in student needs over the past year.



Familia Dental

We welcomed Familia Dental to Next Door in 2022 as a new partner for our Health Services department. **They provide our students with free dental screenings, cleanings, and fluoride treatments at on-site mobile clinics during the school year.** We also refer families to their offices for additional needs and a permanent dental provider. These services are available to children enrolled in our center-based sites and in our Home-Based program.

Thank You Volunteers!

Over the course of 2022, a strong and compassionate group of volunteers dedicated their time and service to Next Door in so many different and meaningful ways.


We welcomed individuals, families, companies, schools, congregations, and community organizations to engage with our programming and impact our children and families both directly and indirectly. We couldn't do our work without you!


 **201**
volunteer readers

 **432**
Walk for Children
participants

 **109**
book drives

 **950**
children received
holiday gifts

 **40**
volunteers preparing
books for our children

 **2,483**
items donated (ex. summer learning backpacks,
winter gear, school supplies, and household items)

Volunteer Today



Want to get involved?
Scan the QR code to learn more
or call Missy at 414.999.2529.



Thank You Donors!

We are grateful for the generous contributions of our donors. They represent individuals, families, community foundations, and corporations. Their gifts supported our critical early childhood education programming, family support services, and workforce development initiatives. Here we recognize all new gifts and pledge installments made between January 1 and December 31, 2022.

\$250,000+

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

\$100,000 - \$249,999

American Family Institute for Corporate and Social Impact
Tides Foundation
West Bend Community Foundation's West Bend Mutual Insurance Company Charitable Fund

\$75,000 - \$99,999

Bader Philanthropies
Brook Lopez and the National Basketball Players Association Foundation
Herzfeld Foundation
Mary and Ted Kellner
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County

\$50,000 - \$74,999

Greater Milwaukee Foundation
The Eleanor G. Buetschli Fund

\$25,000 - \$49,999

A Friend of Next Door
American Family Dreams Foundation
Brady Corporation Foundation
Four-Four Foundation
Franklin M. Buchta Charitable Remainder Unitrust
Helwig Carbon Products
Joan and Fred Brengel Family Foundation
Lynn Nicholas
PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Red Nose Day Fund at Comic Relief US
Ronald and Maureen Sadoff
Richard and Anna Teerlink

\$10,000 - \$24,999

A Friend of Next Door
Dr. Isabel Bader
Donald and Donna Baumgartner
Bert L. and Patricia S. Steigleder Charitable Trust
Bostik
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Bob and Linda Davis Family Fund
Kathy's Parenting Fund

Hepburn "Bootstrap" Foundation
Hydrite Milwaukee
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation
Johnson Controls Foundation
Kathy and Ian Lambert
Matthew and Brenda Levatic
Matrix Foundation
Marian and Bill Nasgovitz
Payne and Dolan
Richard and Suzanne Pieper
PieperPower
PNC Foundation
Ralph Evinrude Foundation
Shirley M. & Roger H. Schroeder
U.S. Bank Foundation
We Energies Foundation
Weiss Family Foundation
William Stark Jones Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

A.O. Smith Foundation
Kay and Fred Austermann
Lynn and Chuck Barney
Steven and Melanie Booth
Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation
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Bob and Sarah Duncan
Sigrid Dynek
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Greater Milwaukee Foundation
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Journal Foundation / Thomas and Yvonne McCollow Fund
Mainman Family Fund
VanHimbergen Family Fund
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James and Yvonne Ziemer

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Harley-Davidson Motor Company
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Christine Radiske and Herbert Quigley
Amy and John Rislav
Wendy Schueller
Molly and Mike Shapiro
Thomas and Iphigenia Smith
Tim and Nancy Speaker
A.J. Star
Florence Steinberger
Townsend Foundation
Tritech Corporation of America
Walbec Group
John and Lisa Wilson
Judy Zimmerlee

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Machinists Local 1377
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Diane McGinn
Medical College of Wisconsin
Jay Miller and Donna Faw
Bary Morgan
National Christian Foundation
The Heiss Family Fund
Nicholas R. Rizzi Foundation
North Shore Bank - Brookfield Square
Ann Pieper Eisenbrown
Karen and James Pieper
Bruce and Mary Ellen Pindyck
PNC
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Studio Gear
Megan Swanson
Lynn Tolcott
Joan Uselmann
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Thora Vervoren
Wauwatosa Savings and Loan Foundation
Katie Weiss
Jack and Hester Werner
Michael and Cathy White
Ann and George Whyte
Linda Yeager and John Florsheim
Zurn Elkay Water Solutions

\$500 - \$999

Alloy Products Corp.
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Nancy Yttre

On November 10, 2022, Next Door hosted a community event featuring the video premiere of *Educare Talk!* – a national expert panel discussion about today's critical need for early childhood education and workforce support. The event was in partnership with the Educare Learning Network.



We gathered with nearly 80 supporters at the Italian Community Center to debut the video, followed by a Milwaukee panel of early childhood experts who continued the discussion on a state and local level. The panelists are pictured here L-R: Maya Payne Smart, Author and Affiliated Faculty, Marquette University; Dr. Tracey Sparrow, Next Door; Erin Arango-Escalante, WI Department of Children and Families; and Dr. Toshiba L. Adams, Milwaukee Area Technical College.



2021-2022 Financials

2021-2022 Operating Revenue

Year Ended June 30, 2022

Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage
Federal & State	\$23,066,809	92.7%
Private Contributions	\$1,246,265	5.0%
In-Kind Goods & Services	\$684,418	2.7%
Other*	\$-105,034	-0.4%
TOTAL	\$24,892,458	100%

2021-2022 Operating Expenses

Year Ended June 30, 2022

Operating Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Personnel	\$13,276,534	51.6%
Fringe Benefits	\$3,241,009	12.6%
Travel & Training	\$387,992	1.5%
Occupancy	\$1,652,457	6.4%
Supplies	\$1,205,872	4.7%
Contractual	\$3,555,250	13.8%
Support Services	\$665,864	2.6%
Depreciation & Interest	\$897,607	3.5%
In-Kind Goods & Services	\$684,418	2.6%
Other	\$179,812	0.7%
Total Expenditures	\$25,746,815	100%

*This figure includes an unrealized loss on investments due to market trends.



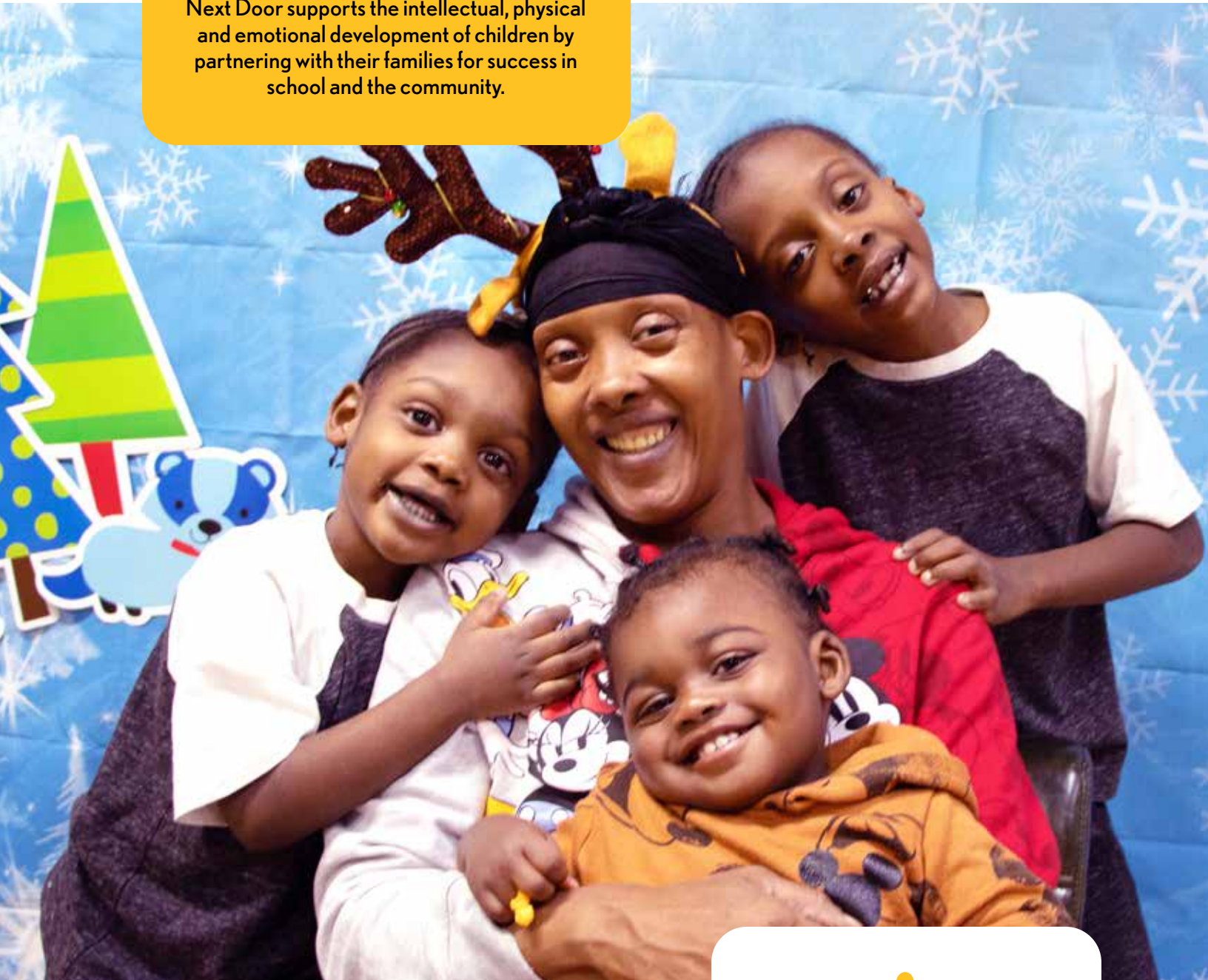
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Our Mission

Next Door supports the intellectual, physical and emotional development of children by partnering with their families for success in school and the community.



nextdoor

— Stronger Families Through Education —

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