

All-In for Children

Dear Next Door Community,

Over my first year at Next Door, I have watched and learned a great deal from our dedicated staff, all while getting to know our inspiring children, families, community partners, donors and volunteers. Next Door is comprised of so many critical contributors, like you – and we are grateful for that support.

To continue moving our mission and organization forward, we are developing our new Strategic Plan, driven by our "All-In for Children" focus. The framework is shared below.

Being "All-In for Children" ensures all stakeholders are committed to ensuring our children receive the very best start – in life, in education, and in opportunities. Access to an exceptional early educational experience is where our work begins, as we know this is the brain's peak time of development and that a strong early foundation matters.

Our Next Door team works hand-in-hand, together with our children's families and the community, creating positive outcomes for over 50 years now. One of the best things to hear from an adult in the community is, "I was a Next Door kid!"

Through our Strategic Plan and the daily realities of providing an excellent early childhood experience for approximately one thousand of Milwaukee's amazing children each year, it is our fervent hope that you will continue to support the good work of Next Door – and be "All-In for Children," too!

You can learn more within these pages, and, as always, reach out with any questions – or come visit us at Next Door.

Heathn Mehring Brams

Heather Mehring Grams
Next Door President







Throughout my son's journey at Next Door, the teachers have been nothing less than amazing. I mean, from encouraging him, motivating him, loving him, and most of all just being great leaders. I couldn't ask for a better start for my child. Thanks for making this experience awesome!

Atonia Harris, mother of Zy'Haire



High-Quality Programs and Services

Our Center-Based Program

Children come to our vibrant 29th Street and Capitol Drive campuses, starting as young as six weeks old. Our programming continues through K4, providing a "first school" experience for children that is focused on building academic, social-emotional and physical development.

Their learning is enhanced across our centers with art and music education, robotics and virtual reality programming, library visits, nature-based playgrounds, and family engagement events.

Our families are engaged in their child's education through daily connections with our teachers and Family Advocates, classroom volunteering, parent meetings, and special events. We further offer community resources to support families' goals.





690

children served across 2 campuses



children connected to community resources for mental health/disability services



1,638

screenings for hearing, vision, lead, and dental health



97%

of children met or exceeded development expectations for their age in literacy



1,870

direct parent-staff connections, including family goal-planning, classroom transitions, fatherhood connections, and crisis situations



Ms. Bershet sure had Kadynce and Teon focused on their math exercise! Using a pan balance, they were learning to quantify numerals in math by matching the amount of monkeys to the number on one side. Our center-based programming features daily periods of instructional time for core academic areas, including math, literacy, and writing. Our children receive small group instruction to help achieve maximum impact through learning. Opportunities within lessons build important life skills, such as problem-solving and collaboration.



High-Quality Programs and Services

Health and Early Intervention Services

Next Door's health team ensures we conduct screenings for hearing, vision, lead, and dental health for our children. We provide referrals to doctors and dentists and host on-site health fairs with resources for families.

Our early intervention team provides positive behavior support and strategies, helps identify developmental delays, and provides additional support to children, complementing the strong work of our instructional staff across Next Door.

Data proves that when we intervene at this early stage of life, we can empower children with solid resources and strategies to overcome challenges, preparing them for the next level of learning and overall success in life.







Jayceon's Music Success

Legs up and a grin from ear-to-ear captures the excitement of Jayceon during a music education class delivered by the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

Educators from the Conservatory lead the Smart Start program across all Next Door classrooms on a weekly basis. The international and research-based program works to build children's cognitive skills through the power of music. Next Door is one of the first early childhood centers in Wisconsin to offer this program.

Jayceon's teachers report his engagement has increased significantly over the past year. After showing low participation at the beginning, he transitioned to singing verses of songs like, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," and exhibiting greater clarity in his speech. He has also increased participation in day-to-day classroom experiences in music.



High-Quality Programs and Services

Our Home-Based Program

Our Home-Based Program extends our reach in the community with year-round prenatal services for pregnant mothers and parenting and child development support for families – all in the comfort of their own home.

Our team of Parent Educators meet with families weekly to help parents become strong teachers for their children and connect families with community resources to meet basic needs. We invite families to Next Door for socialization events throughout the year – providing opportunities to connect with other families.



pregnant moms + families with children served



screenings for hearing, vision, lead, and dental health





4,304

home visits and socialization events

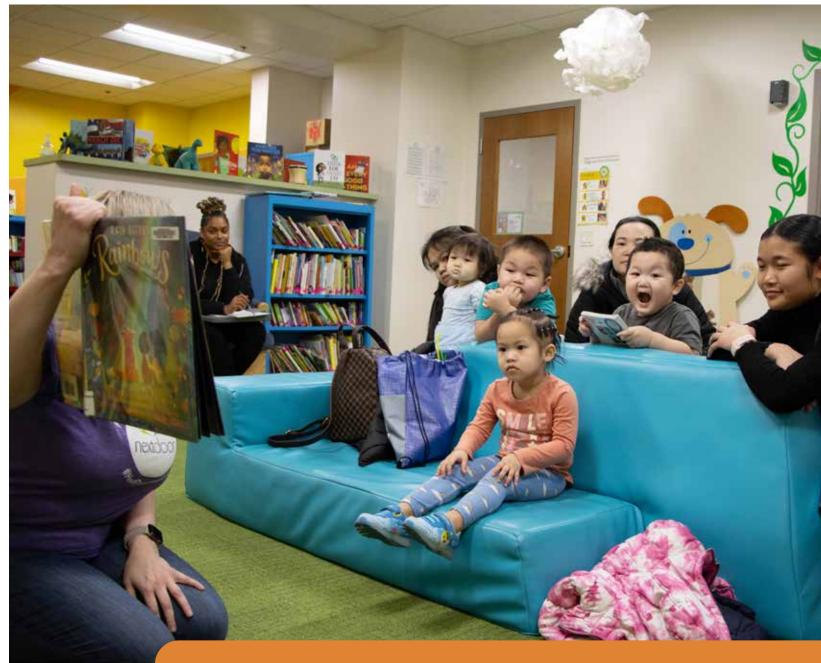


languages including Burmese, Chin, English, Hmong, Igbo, Karen, Rohingya, and Spanish



3,900+

household items provided to families, including diapers, wipes, and feminine hygiene kits



It's story time with Ms. Jaclyn for children and parents enrolled in Next Door's Home-Based Program. They were enjoying the book "Rain Before Rainbows" in our Books for Kids Library. These library visits are part of socialization events we host at Next Door for Home-Based families during the year. Children get a chance to take home free books to build home libraries and participate in curriculum-based activities. Parents gain further resources from Parent Educators and special guest speakers covering topics such as healthy eating or life-changing events like a new baby at home. In the 2022-2023 school year, we hosted 30 events for families.



Maximizing Access and Impact

Our Child Care Partnership Program

Within our buildings and beyond, Next Door helps ensure under-resourced children and their families have access to high-quality early learning experiences. One of the ways we extend access and our impact throughout Milwaukee is through our Child Care Partnership (CCP) program.

We lead the largest CCP program in Wisconsin – working to improve the quality of learning at multiple early childhood centers in under-served areas of the city.

Our team of Next Door Instructional Coaches support teachers at the partnership sites with one-on-one coaching and professional development trainings. Additionally, Next Door Family Advocates, Health Advocates and Early Intervention Specialists all support families with goal-setting, access to having basic needs met, healthcare options, and connections to behavioral services.





Coaching/Professional
Development
support for

155



4

JumpStart teacher conferences hosted by Next Door



327

children directly served at CCP sites



647

screenings for hearing, vision, lead, and dental health



3,469

direct parent-staff connections, including family goal-planning, classroom transitions, and crisis situations.



Cruz is one of our Next Door Family Advocates who works with children and parents in our Child Care Partnership (CCP) program. Every week, she travels to her assigned partnership sites — including Jo's Learning Academy, pictured here — and visits classrooms to help support children's learning. Here she is working with Joemely on color recognition and building skills. Cruz works closely with parents as well, supporting them in areas such as enrollment, family goals, community resources, and family engagement in their children's education. Family Advocates like Cruz serve in all of our 11 partnership sites.



Commitment to Staff

There is no greater asset at Next Door than the people serving our children and families every day across our two campuses, Home-Based Program and Child Care Partnership sites. We must invest in our team members to help them reach their best at Next Door and to be in "All-In" of support of our children and families.

Our commitment to staff includes our Workforce Development Department, which helps employees advance their education, meet professional and personal goals and remove barriers to success.

Here's a look at our extensive coaching network:

Instructional Coaches

• Supporting teachers in and outside of classrooms by building skills in curriculum implementation, assessments, and student education plans

Family Services Coaches

 Supporting Family Advocates and Parent Educators by building skills to strengthen family connections and grow resources to serve families

Professional Development Team

 Supporting staff by organizing monthly training days for teachers and agency-wide trainings in areas, including, CPR, crisis intervention and trauma-sensitive care

Success Coaches

 Supporting all staff with action plans and community resources in areas, including, financial wellness, housing and career growth

Wellness Specialist

• Supporting all staff by delivering on-site programming, including, gentle exercise, meditation and health screenings







Meet AC and her Family

This photo captures my family in front of our first home! I am pictured in the back row, second from the right.

Next Door helped us achieve this goal in September 2023, with support from my Success Coach, Dorian. She provided community resources for homeownership and helped me navigate lots of requirements. Now, I'm just so happy and so relieved. I can finally say, "I can go to my home and have something that is mine."

Dorian further supported me in advancing my education as a Parent Educator in our Home-Based program. I enrolled in Next Door's Pathways Program and earned an Infant/Toddler Certificate at Milwaukee Area Technical College. I also received a Family Development Credential this year to further enhance my skills.

This was a challenging year for me, and many times I was feeling down. But Dorian was always there for me as a pillar of strength and inspiration. I'm just very happy to have partnered with her on my journey.



Commitment to Staff

Our Pathways Program

We further elevate our commitment to early childhood educators with our Pathways Program.

Working with community partners, Pathways helps counter the teacher shortage in our industry. We do this by developing new teachers and offering educational advancement opportunities for our current teachers to become Lead Teachers. The work includes on-the-job training for newcomers, as well as both on-site and campus-based college coursework — all free to participants.



Brittany and Alayna completed the Pre-Apprenticeship Pathway and are now Assistant Teachers at Next Door.

Our Pathways lead to:

- Early Childhood certifications
- Infant/Toddler Badge
- Early Childhood Educator Technical Diploma
- Associate's and Bachelor's degrees
- Leadership, administrative and pre-school credentials

Pathways remove barriers to success by:

- Coordinating classes
- Providing free tuition, fees and books
- Arranging for paid release time to attend classes or complete homework
- Offering hardship stipends and community resources for personal challenges, as needed

Pathways Success

- 57 individuals have completed a single pathway; one teacher has completed two pathways.
- 16 Assistant Teachers hired
- 8 employees promoted to Lead Teacher positions
- Expanded on-site coursework in 2023 from Milwaukee Area Technical College
- Added two new pathways for specialized credentials through the Wisconsin Registry and for the Infant/Toddler Badge



Our Trauma-Sensitive Approach

We understand that traumatic life events can impact everyone and can manifest in many different forms. We also know that trauma can dramatically impact the success of our children, families and staff. With this in mind, we strive to create a culture of trauma-sensitive care, embracing our entire Next Door community.

Our work in this area expanded in 2020 after members of our team completed training in a Trauma-Sensitive Schools model with Wellpoint Care Network of Milwaukee. Since then, we have created a Trauma-Sensitive School sub-committee to lead our work in this important area.

The sub-committee is comprised of staff from across our organization. The group leads trainings agency-wide, promotes empathy-building, and supports a host of services, as highlighted below.



Community Engagement

We understand that we cannot do our critical work alone, and that is why we partner with numerous local and national organizations to enhance our programming and services.

Together, our partners provide valuable expertise to expand our academic programming, support children with special needs, deliver critical health services, empower our staff with career advancement, and provide community resources for families' needs.

ACTS Housing • American Family Institute for Corporate and Social Impact

AmeriCorps • Carroll University • Children's Wisconsin

City of Milwaukee Office of Early Childhood Initiatives • Clayton Early Learning Academy - EMBRACE

Community Health Internship Program through Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers

Denta Med • Educare Learning Network • Employ Milwaukee • Familia Dental

Fathers Making Progress • First Stage • Heal the Hood • Hunger Task Force

Ignite Child Development Services • LENA • LISC Milwaukee

Marquette University Service • Marquette University Speech and Language Department

Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy • Milwaukee Area Technical College

Milwaukee Coalition for Children's Mental Health (part of Mental Health America of Wisconsin)

Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic • Milwaukee Public Schools

Milwaukee Succeeds • New Threads of Hope • Next Step Clinic • Novir • Parenting Network

School Community Partnership for Mental Health (part of Children's Wisconsin)

The Literacy Lab and Leading Men Fellows • United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee • University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

UPAF Connect • Wellpoint Care Network

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music • Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development



Partner Spotlight: Novir

- A healthcare partner since 2020
- Administers year-round, on-site clinics for children and staff
- Lead testing for children
- Vaccinations (flu, Covid-19) for both children and staff
- A free service for all participants

Community Engagement

We are grateful for the generous financial contributions of our donors, including individuals, families, community foundations, and corporations. Your gifts supported our high-quality 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, 2023.

\$500,000+

Greater Milwaukee Foundation Barbara Brumder Buzard Fund Bonnie R. and Carl A. Weigell Fund Charles Edgar Albright and Laura Uihlein Albright Fund Edmund J. and Nancy C. Vojtik Fund III ELM II Fund Hal and Joyce Kuehl Fund Jack and Mary Geilfuss Fund Nile and Carol Soik Family Fund

Robert A. "Bo" Brandt Fund

The Anita Mankowski Educational Fund Walter and Olive Stiemke Fund

\$250,000+ Buffett Early Childhood Fund Bader Philanthropies

\$100,000 - \$249,999
Brook and Robin Lopez and the National Basketball Playe

the National Basketball Players Association Foundation Helwig Carbon Products United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County **\$75,000 - \$99,999**Northwestern Mutual Foundation

\$50,000 - \$74,999 Herzfeld Foundation The Family of Mike Mastroianni

\$25,000 - \$49,999
Brady Corporation Foundation
Herb Kohl Philanthropies
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Foundation

PwC Charitable Foundation Red Nose Day Fund at Comic Relief US Richard and Anna Teerlink Walbec Group

\$10,000 - \$24,999
A Friend of Next Door
Donald and Donna Baumgartner
Four-Four Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Catherine and Walter Lindsay
Foundation Fund
Kathy's Parenting Fund
Hepburn "Bootstrap" Foundation

Help Support the "Be Like Mike" Fund

Mike Mastroianni loved being an early childhood educator. He worked in the field locally, having served in Milwaukee Public Schools, the Jewish Community Center, The Nurturing Nook, and the United Community Center.

Tragically, Mike's life was taken in November 2022 when he was struck by a car while riding his bike. In honor of his spirit of kindness and passion for teaching, his family created the "Be Like Mike" Fund at Next Door. So far, the fund has collected more than \$90,000 in donations. The hope is to grow this into a long-term, sustaining fund that can provide annual grants.

This fund is designated for the support and development of male early childhood educators at Next Door. We are striving to increase our team of male teachers, understanding how important they are as role models for our children.



Scan the QR code to give today, or contact Cristina at 414.999.2592 or ccrogan@NextDoorMKE.org.



Hydrite Chemical Co. Hydrite Milwaukee Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation Kathy and Ian Lambert Lynn Nicholas Brenda and Matthew Levatich Ann Pieper Eisenbrown PNC Foundation Ralph Evinrude Foundation Shirley M. and Roger H. Schroeder The ROS Foundation U.S. Bank Foundation Bob and Brenda VanHimbergen We Energies Foundation Weiss Family Foundation William Stark Jones Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

A.O. Smith Foundation
Kay and Fred Austermann
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Charles D. Jacobus Family
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\$2,500 - \$4,999

Bartolotta Restaurants

Meg Brzyski Nelson

Joanne Danforth and

Stewart Edwards

Michael Carter

Christin Cleaver

Care-A-Lotta Program

Joan Aker

Greater Milwaukee Foundation

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Larry and Jeanne Prochnow Christine Radiske and Herbert Quigley Terri and Neil Siegel Timothy and Nancy Speaker Florence Steinberger Townsend Foundation John and Lisa Wilson Zurn Elkay Water Solutions

Read for Children

In May 2023, Next Door launched its inaugural Read for Children event to promote youth literacy and raise funds for our Books for Kids program. Here are our first-year results.





books collected for our children



minutes of reading to our children by families, staff and volunteers



raised to support Books for Kids programming/operations

\$1,000 - \$2,499 A Friend of Next Door Albert J. & Flora H. Ellinger Foundation Kimberly Anderson Thomas and Diane Arenberg William and Marianne Arpe Bank Five Nine John Barrett Cindy Benning Boswell Book Company Catholic Memorial High School Charles D. Ortgiesen Foundation Juliet Conlon Mary and James Conlon Cristina and Jeff Crogan Crysdahl Foundation Kevin Duvalle and Fred Lueneburg Janine Easter Eileen & Howard Dubner Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation

Edward and Joanne Filmanowicz Brian Firkus Claudia Francis and Thomas Jensen Greater Milwaukee Foundation Asher and Susan Nichols Family Fund Joan and Peter W. Bruce Fund Randall Family Fund Sterner Family Fund Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation Dr. Susan Gruber Hammes Company Hammes Family Foundation Judy Hauser Bradley Jansen Neil & Terri Siegel Family Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation Benjamin and Eileen Kelly Hans and Ellen Kirkegaard

Jason and Terri Klein Maria and Jeff Koenitzer Joyce Koenitzer Mary Ann and Charles LaBahn Linda & Barry Allen Foundation Katherine Luck Alfred Lustig and Janice Watson Machinists Local 1377 Judith and Paul McGhee Diane McGinn Heather Mehring Grams Molly Mulroy North Shore Bank -Brookfield Square Gregory and Rhonda Oberland Paul F. and Lois K. Heiss Family Foundation PNC

Maureen Post

Ruth M. Ritter

David Pritchard and

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\$500 - \$999 Agapi's Friends Charitable Fund David Allen Baird John and Maija Bentley Mark and Lori Boutelle Caren & Daniel Goldberg Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation Walter and Aleta Chossek David Colorez, Former Next Door VISTA Volunteer Rebecca Cook Judith Croak Cumberland School PTO Daniel and Mary Czarnecki Darren Davis and Bryna Goeckner Fred and Rosanna DeBoe Stephen Fischer Elizabeth Fitzsimmons Carole and Adam Glass

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Thank you Volunteers!

Here's a look at the amazing support of community volunteers during the 2022-2023 school year.



Scan the QR code to learn more about volunteering or contact Missy at 414.999.2529 or mhodzinski@NextDoorMKE.org.





1,935

hours preparing books for distribution to our children



Next Door students received holiday gifts from community donations



items donated to our families, including school supplies, winter gear and household items



hours serving as classroom helpers

Books for Kids

We are grateful to our community volunteers who support our Books for Kids program. From hosting book drives to joining us for Read with Me, you all help children build home libraries and foster strong engagement in reading. Your contributions further allow us to bring more free books to children across Milwaukee through our Mobile Library and Community Library.



Scan the QR code to host a book drive or contact Jackie at 414.999.2509 or jshanti@NextDoorMKE.org.





books distributed to children at Next Door and the community



book drives hosted by companies, schools, congregations and service organizations



hours reading to our children in our libraries and classrooms during Read with Me

20

Financial and Resource Stewardship

2022-2023 Operating Revenue

Year Ended June 30, 2023

Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage
Federal & State	\$20,691,479	72.5%
Private Contributions	\$4,186,720	14.7%
Other	\$1,879,225	6.6%
In-Kind Goods & Services	\$1,775,929	6.2%
Total	\$28,533,353	100%

2022-2023 Operating Expenses

Year Ended June 30, 2023

Operating Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Personnel	\$12,751,094	45.7%
Fringe Benefits	\$3,509,976	12.6%
Travel & Training	\$399,490	1.4%
Occupancy	\$1,901,815	6.8%
Equipment & Supplies	\$2,135,681	7.7%
Contractual	\$3,809,325	13.6%
Support Services	\$652,555	2.3%
Depreciation	\$649,961	2.3%
Interest	\$249,374	0.9%
In-Kind Goods & Services	\$1,775,929	6.4%
Other	\$87,572	0.3%
Total Expenditures	\$27,922,772	100%





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