



# Padua Ponderings

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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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## Car Donated By Taylor Kia For Padua Possibilities Program

The Padua Possibilities Program, an alternative to suspension, is a unique program developed at Padua Center. Daily children from Pickett Academy and often from other local schools, come to Padua Center for an intensive program of formation in alternatives to the behaviors which precipitated the suspension.



Key to the growth of the program is the ability to transport children to and from the Center. Toledo Public School assured transportation back to Pickett Academy. Until recently employees of Padua Center have had to use personal vehicles to pick up the children. Insurance issues, as well as wear and tear on personal cars, have made transportation difficult. Thanks to a donation by Steve Taylor, of Taylor KIA, Padua Center now owns a Chevy Lumina which has bravely conquered the winter cold and snow and provides transportation for children, as well as other Padua Center business. Padua staff will also use the car a great deal during the summer camps for picking up lunches, supplies and transporting children to various camp venues.

## Alicia Smith Receives BA Degree and Begins as Graduate Assistant

The Padua Center celebrated on Dec. 18, 2010, when Alicia Smith, Educational Coordinator, received her Bachelor Degree, with honors, from the University of Toledo. Alicia Smith has been balancing school, work and family. This was a great challenge for her as each aspect of her life was very demanding. Those who know Alicia Smith know that she does nothing half-heartedly.



After her graduation, Alicia began work on her Master of Arts Degree. She received a graduate assistantship, working with the Boys and Girls Club. Alicia continues to balance the three dimensions of her life-school, work and family. Congratulations, Alicia!

## 4G Garden Project - Global Go Green Garden!

The Padua Center is always excited to form new partnerships! American Cultural Exchange Service (ACES), under the leadership of Val Virga, brings students from around the world to Northwest Ohio. These exchange students bring a wealth of their own culture, as well as an eagerness to learn. One area they had in common with Padua is in food production, or gardening. Everyone eats! Each culture brings a unique array of culinary delights to our table. ACES and Padua Center are developing a gardening plan for our “Edible, Play-able Fitness Ground” which informs us as to the geographic roots of many of the vegetables and fruits that we eat.



Padua staff will section off the garden to plant foods reflecting indigenous to a particular culture, or geography. Our Africa section of the garden will highlight sweet potatoes, black eyed peas and cabbage. South America will be colorful with green peppers, chili peppers and tomatoes.

Padua staff will plant various other vegetables to reflect our exchange students and their homelands. The ACES group has come for a planting day and will continue to work with the children of Padua Center, sharing food, fellowship and lots of information about other lands.



## Regency Park Surgery Center Donates Books

What a delight to have a new book! Children at Padua Center thrill to have a new book, especially one that tells a story reminding them of their own families. Pictures, artwork, themes and language are all very important.

Thanks to the nurses from the Surgery Center at Regency Park, LLC, under the leadership of Vicki Britton-Robinson, Padua Center received 32 children’s books. These books invite eager minds to read and learn about the joys and journeys that come from the written word. They are also ethnically appropriate for Padua Children. One of the new books donated for Christmas at Padua Center is *Ellington is not a Street*.



## In Memoriam

Our condolences to Jonathan Boyle on the death of his grandfather, Lewis Zielinski.

Our prayers for the families of other benefactors of Padua Center who died recently:  
Lynn Davis and Robert Arnzen, both of Delphos.



# Christmas Fun at Padua

Although the signs of spring are beginning to break through the late winter's snow and ice, Christmas is still in the memory of Padua Center.

Christmas is a special time at Padua, during the season the center experiences many generous gifts.

Daily gifts pour down upon us-often in the form of financial contributions, which assist in the ministry of Padua Center.

Christmas donations this year came from numerous organizations and groups. Several donations, which came via the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, assisted in providing for Padua Center Christmas Party.

In addition to the gifts, a group of students from Whitmer High School came in December and assisted in decorating the Center, they then returned in January and did the tiresome task of taking down all the decorations! Thanks to Matthew Scheiber for organizing the outing. Finally, thanks to the staff of Padua Center for all the extra work they did in preparation for the party.



## Board's Strategic Planning Meeting

On October 16, Padua Center will be five years old. The center is planning a wonderful anniversary party. After five years of developing and planning an identity for Padua Center, it was time to re-access our role in the community. Padua Center Board, members of the Brighten Up Board, community members and parents all contributed to a lively discussion of the future of Padua Center.

Bob Savage led the discussion and affirmation of the original Mission and Strategic plan. There were several entry points for growth and development of present plans. The Padua Board recommended a slightly revised Mission Statement:

### ***Revised Mission Statement***

*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, support, and community involvement.*

## Brighten Up Board Members Meet

"Brighten Up" Board members, Brenda and Danielle Witcher join Community Organizer, Ambrose Odiari, and Sister Virginia for a break after their March meeting.



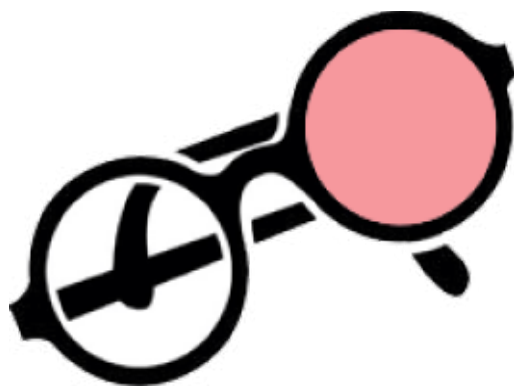
The organization meets on the First Thursday of each month to discuss Community challenges. Paula Hicks-Hudson, District 4 City Council Representative attended the March meeting.

## Vision Therapy Program Update

Thanks to a grant from the Maria Anna Brunner Foundation, Padua Center was able to offer vision screening and follow-up therapy to all children who participate in our Padua Possibilities Program and our After School Academic Assistance Program.

During this school year Mrs. Sherry Baker, principal vision therapist, screened 30 children from the After School Program and 34 children from the Padua Possibilities Program. Each child received an invitation to participate in one session per week, three exercises per session, for a 10-week period.

Mrs. Baker reported that one of the children from the Padua Possibilities program experienced a calming effect when she interacted with the vision therapy computer program. Another child revealed a real deficit in her left eye and will receive follow up studies to help her. Padua consulted with Dr. Schmamel and our Vision Therapy will help her achieve academically. Thanks to the Maria Anna Brunner Foundation for funding this important program.



Joyce Nowak, of the Toledo Women's Bar Association presented a carpet cleaner to Padua Center.

## Toledo Women's Bar Association Adopts Padua Center

The Toledo Women's Bar Association (TWBA) each year selects an organization to sponsor and assist. This year they chose Padua Center and we are thrilled. The TWBA is an organization that encourages and recognizes the contributions of women in the legal profession. It improves and promotes the advancement of women in the community through leadership, education, social networking, philanthropy and professional development.

In addition to the financial assistance that will be forthcoming, these professional women will present a wonderful model for our Emerging Young Ladies Program. This is a special program designed just for you-a girl in middle school (grades 6-8).

Plans are in the making for their involvement with this program. Sister Virginia will speak at their April meeting and explore a full range of partnership activities.

## Summer Camps Announced

**All camps are free. Register in person or online.**

Hero/Heroine Headquarters Bible School—June 13-17 (K-8)  
Heroes/Heroines care for the Environment—June 20-24 (K-5)  
Heroes/Heroines Work for Peace—June 27-July 1 (K-5)  
Hometown Heroes/Heroines—July 11-15 (Grades 6-8)  
Heroes/Heroines in sports—July 18-22 (Grades 6-8)  
Emerging Young Ladies—July 25-29 (Gr6-8)  
Maturing Young Men—July 25-29 (Gr6-8)

## Grant Possibilities

Padua Center submitted the following grant applications:

Maria Anna Brunner - Padua Possibilities  
Sisters Of St. Francis - Summer Camps  
Toledo Community Foundation -

Emerging Young Ladies  
Cox Family Foundation - Summer Gardener

The Toledo Rotary - Flooring & Equipment

## Padua Donors

Ed and Sharon Ahlfors  
Sharon Ahrens  
Coleena Ali  
Alice Arnzen  
Jason Askins  
Alyse Besteder  
Gloria and Wil Baughn  
Mark and Brenda Beauregard  
Joyce Betz  
Chuck Boyle  
Jacqueline Chaney  
Judith Crandall  
F.L Daniels  
Buzz and Ellen Ditto  
Bishop Robert Donnelly  
Judy Dudley  
Jennifer Edgar  
Rev. Thomas Extejt  
Tom Facey-McDonald  
Joyce Feathers  
Susan Felton  
Crissie Frye  
Stephen Goldman  
Sister Margaret Hall  
Lynne Hamer  
Rochelle and Thomas Hite  
Rev. Joseph Jaros  
Kathleen Jeffery  
David Johnson  
Deb and Paul Johnson  
Jennifer and Eric Juhasz  
Sue Kasee  
Sharon Kallings  
Susan Koester  
William Kopaniasz  
Mary Jane Kunz  
Latasha Lane  
Carol Laumann  
Eric Lyons  
George Marsh and Mary Ann  
Rickus  
Risa McClellen-Jordan  
Michael and Annette Miller  
Mission Circle #7 of Painesville,  
Ohio  
John Moore  
Jenny McNair  
Fred and Laura Nickens

Susan Nowak  
Debra Oneal  
Walter Pauly  
Jim Perry  
Thomas and Dianne Powers  
Sharon Rappaport  
Rosary Altar Society of St. Martin  
de Porres  
Tim and Joan Sacksteder  
Robert Savage  
Carol and Matthew Scheiber  
Kelly Schumacher  
Louis and Rochelle Sepanski  
Constance Shaw  
Evelyn Shordt  
Kathleen Stamm  
Brandy Tanner  
Mark and Carol Tyson  
Bob and Debbie Welsh  
Warren and Kathy Welsh  
Bill and Kim Welsh  
Janice Wenck  
Roberta Wilcinski

**In Memory of Lynn Davis:**  
Joyce Feathers

## Volunteers

Padua Center is very proud of the support received from our 179 volunteers. Between September 2010 and March 2011, this small army of volunteers provided 824 hours of service to Padua!

***Thanks so much!***



## Padua Board Members

### President

Patrice Powers-Barker

### Vice President

Dennis Jarrett

### Secretary

Cheri Spino

### Treasurer

Jonathan Bridges

### Board Members

Jonathan Boyle  
Weldon Douthitt  
George Lee  
Lynne Hamer  
Jim Perry  
Joseph Reeves  
Michael Youngblood



*The Christ Child Society continued their generous contribution of new coats for all children in need.*



*JDRM Engineering of Sylvania, Ohio, donated nearly \$2,500 dollars in food and gifts to Padua Center. Alan King, far right, organized the contributions.*