



# Padua Ponderings

Volume 3, Issue 4: Fall 2009

## Padua Center Improving and Strengthening

The Padua Center is celebrating its third birthday in October and is taking some time to evaluate its development and also to strengthen the financial base upon which it operates. A grant from the Center for Nonprofit Resources has allowed The Padua Center to hire consultants for a financial plan. With the help of these consultants Padua Center increased names in our database, made contacts with numerous people in the community, and submitted one grant and one RFP, both of which were awarded. In addition The Padua Center has begun the Padua Promoters, a group of supporters from the community who will make connections with funders. Nevertheless, The Padua Center is suffering from the economic downturn that is challenging everyone.

Padua Center desperately needs every donation, whether \$10, or \$100 dollars. Thank you for your continued support. Mike Szuberla, Director of Toledo-GROWS, recently told a gathering at the First Thursday Lecture Series that he works with many non-profit organizations. According to Mike, Padua Center accomplishes more with less money than any other organization! This is a great tribute to the many people who work and volunteer at Padua Center. It is our pledge to stretch each donation and contribution to the maximum!

## Padua Center Staff Meets with MJM Consulting

Through a grant from the Center for Nonprofit Resources, Sister Virginia has met with MJM Consulting to develop a financial plan for The Center. In addition, MJM Consulting provided training for our Board. All of these activities are part of ensuring Padua Center's future.

## Niki Bare-Family Support Coordinator

Niki Bare recently joined Padua Center to fulfill a Social Work internship. Niki is a Licensed Social Worker completing her Master's Degree at the University of Toledo. In her position at Padua Center she is working with the Padua Possibilities program connecting the families with the program activities. She calls or meets with each family who has a student attending the program. In addition, Niki meets with guests who come for coffee, connects with the *Brighten Up* community organizers and responds to every day needs. Welcome Niki!



## Fruit Basket Sale

The children of Padua Center will be selling Fruit Baskets between November 9-December 9, 2009.

**Mixed Fresh Fruit Baskets - \$25**

*(apples, pears, pineapple, oranges, grapefruit, bananas)*

**Two Fruits Baskets - \$16**

*(one kind of fruit or a mixture of two)*

To place your orders, please call (419) 241-6465. You will receive your fruit baskets on December 15, 2009.



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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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# Fun at Summer Camp!

Each summer the halls of Padua Center, the playground and gardens, the streets and neighborhood fill with the sounds of the Padua children gathering for summer camp. This past summer was a very full summer and offered children a great variety of activities. We thank the Lynch Family Foundation for their financial support for all of our camps.

## Vacation Bible Camp

- Twenty-six children participated in *Cosmic City*.
- The Catholic Heart filled out the ranks of volunteers.

## Shalom Peace Camp

- A variety of speakers spoke with the 18 children about nonviolence.
- Children planted a peace pole in the Ujima Park and Garden.
- Children visited Lourdes College and learned the story of St. Francis and the wolf.

## Our Famous Toledoans Camp

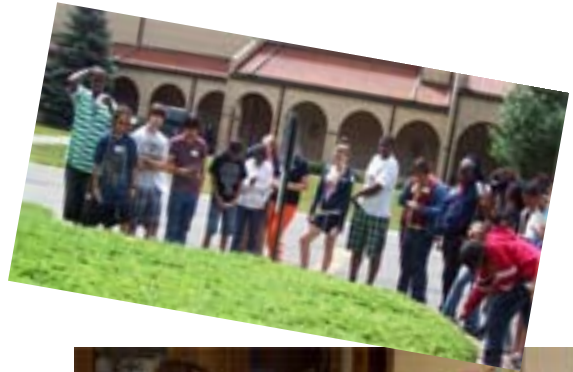
- Twenty-two campers learned of Ella P. Stewart, Moses Fleetwood Walker, Art Tatum and other Toledoans. Local reporter, Kristian Brown of Channel 13 visited.
- The Children had field trips to Kent Branch Library and Sojourner Truth Art Museum.

## Padua Potters Environmental Camp

- Students used everyday items to make their crafts.
- Children took a trip to Toledo Zoo, compliments of Lincoln Mercury.
- Dr. Goldman conducted a Botany Workshop, Melinda Lesniewicz created an edible landfill, and Megan Daoust taught about care of chickens.

## Artful Experiences

- Campers learned to self-express.
- This camp incorporated poetry, art, music, and dance.
- The camp ended with a *Youth Explosion* with dance, drama, song and fun!



Natalie Keyes assists Nakia with her homework.

## Academic Assistance Program

For the third year Padua Center is offering academic assistance for children seeking to improve their scholastic achievement. This free tutoring is under the direction of Educational Coordinator, Alicia Smith. Students come to Padua Center from Imani Learning Academy, Apostolic Christian Academy, Old Orchard School, Jones Middle School, Robinson Middle School, Grove Patterson Academy, Toledo Technology Academy, Spring School, Gesu and Pickett Academy.

This long list of schools testifies to the reputation that Padua Center has for success. If you wish to help, you can designate donations specifically to Padua Center's After-School Academic Assistance Program.

## Marcy Kaptur Becomes First Padua Promoter



This summer Padua Center began the Padua Promoters. Padua Promoters have five responsibilities:

- Help Padua Center to make connections in the community
- Promote the Mission and Vision of Padua Center
- Support Padua Center's activities through financial contributions
- Attend one yearly gathering to hear of Padua Center's accomplishments
- Give direction to Padua Center

Representative Marcy Kaptur is the first to accept our invitation to become a Padua Promoter. Two other individuals join her as Padua Promoters. They are John Moore, Chair of Owens Community College Board of Trustees and Juanita Greene, Director, Board of Community Relations. Padua Center welcomes all of our Padua Promoters!

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## Padua Possibilities Funded by Franciscan Sisters of Chicago

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago awarded a grant to Padua Center for the Padua Possibilities Program for 2009-2010 school year. The Padua Possibilities is an Alternative to Suspension Program begun during the 2008-09 school year.

In addition, Padua Center received a contract with Lucas County Children's Services to provide Padua Possibilities services to suspended children in their care. Fortunately for the children, not too many LCCS children require our services. With the contract, Padua Center receives reimbursement for each child who attends the Padua Possibilities program.

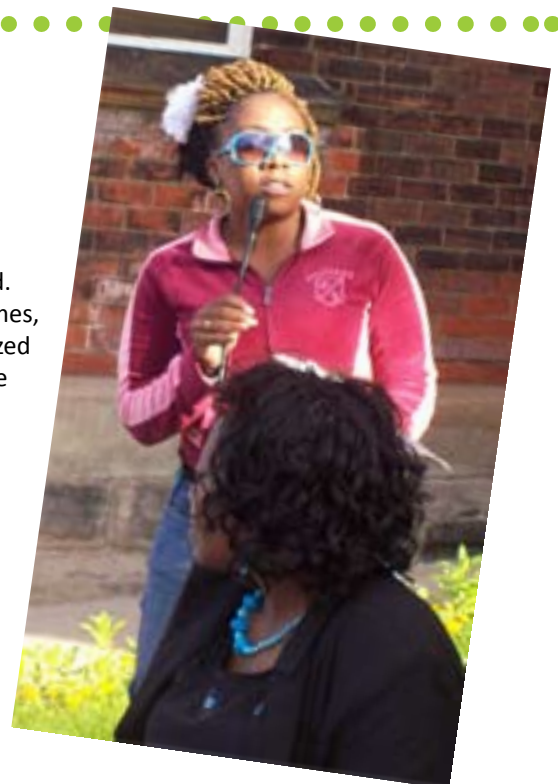
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## Brighten Up the Neighborhood Organizing

Funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Padua Alliance sponsored Brighten Up, a community organizing effort in the Padua neighborhood. During the summer of 2009, Padua hired five community organizers to visit homes, chart lights that needed replacement, and contact the City of Toledo. They organized two community gatherings and continued working toward the development of the Padua neighborhood.

The organizers, Artisha Lawson, Venus Chapman, Robert Cunningham, Tama Forney, and John King worked for 15 weeks to complete their tasks. At the concluding community event they announced that they reported 136 empty homes and vacant lots, and 52 burned out lights to the City of Toledo.

As a follow up Artisha Lawson provided the opportunity for community members to learn the skills of community organizing as a continuation of the *Brighten Up* Program. Tama Forney will continue this effort by Padua Center.



*Artisha Lawson, one of the five community organizers hired for the Brighten Up program. She speaks at a community gathering.*

## Emerging Young Ladies Program Update

During August, Padua Center offered the third session of Emerging Young Ladies. Padua conducted this session as a summer camp and had eight ladies participate. Guests for Emerging Young Ladies were Toledo Councilwoman Wilma Brown, K. LaVerne Redden of St Martin de Porres Parish, and Mary Schmidtbauer of Second Chance.

The young ladies also saw the premier viewing of "Losing Maria" a Toledo-made movie about a young woman recruited into commercial sex trafficking. The girls continue to meet and are planning an 'Un-haunted Halloween' party on October 24 at 6:00-7:00 PM. Several college women are mentoring the young ladies. Monthly gatherings, outings, and just plain 'having fun' are in the plans.



*One of our "Emerging Young Ladies" admires a Mexican Sunflower in the Ujima Park and Garden.*

## Donor List

**July 1, 2009 to October 15, 2009**

### **Individual Donations:**

Ed and Sharon Ahlfors  
Coleena Ali  
Patrice Powers-Barker  
Gloria and Wil Baughn  
Barb Beauregard  
MaryAnne and Andy Getschman  
Frances Long  
Alice Lynch  
George and Jane Pavuk  
Matthew and Carol Scheiber  
Mary Ann Topmoeller

### **Institutional Donations:**

St. Vincent de Paul of St Joan of Arc Parish  
Lake County Mission Circle #7, Painesville, Ohio  
St Patrick Historic Church, Toledo, Ohio

### **In-Kind Donations:**

Linda Ewing and Fifth Third Bank  
Lynne Hamer  
Mike and Tracy Harmon  
Cedric Brock and Rama Inn  
Toledo Lincoln Mercury

### **Grants:**

Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, Illinois  
Anastasia Fund by Representative Marcy Kaptur  
Franciscans Sisters of Tiffin, Ohio

## Board Members

Present Board members are:

Patrice Powers-Barker, Chair  
Joe Reeves, Treasurer  
Dennis Jarrett, St. Martin de Porres Parish  
Ida Stacker, Parent  
Lynne Hamer, Ph.D, University of Toledo  
Rev. Herb Weber, Pastor Blessed John XXIII parish  
Donald and Sherelene Pressley  
Rev. Strickland, Minister  
Michael Youngblood, Director, Black Catholic Ministries  
Jonathan Boyle, Owens Community College

### **Staff:**

Sister Virginia Welsh, Director  
Alicia Smith, Educational Coordinator  
Numerous Volunteers

