



# 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

The Padua Center  
 1416 Nebraska  
 Toledo, Ohio 43607  
 (419) 241-6465  
 www.paduacenter.org

## Marcy Kaptur Visits Padua Center

Padua Center was spic and span, the kitchen was emitting smells of scrambled eggs and homemade muffins, and the PowerPoint presentation was ready as staff and volunteers eagerly welcomed Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, for a visit. Because of a last minute change of timing, so that Kaptur could return to Washington for the historic vote on the Health Care Reform Bill, not everyone invited attended the 7:30 AM gathering. But, those who present engaged in the activities of The Padua Center and in making connections.



*Other Padua Promoters, board members, staff and friends of Padua Center flank Congresswoman Kaptur.*

This gathering was the first of the Padua Promoters. In addition to Congresswomen Kaptur, other Promoters present included John Moore of the Owens Community College Board, and Juanita Greene of the Board of Community Relations. After a delicious breakfast, the staff of Padua Center gave a presentation on the center’s programs.

Rev. Barry Murr, Steve and Gary Wirzylo prepared breakfast using eggs from our free range chickens! The center appreciates them, as well as the members of Glendale Presbyterian Church for their generosity. Following up on this visit, the staff of Padua Center will make connections for funding and grants.

## Jonathan Boyle-Volunteer of the Year

Anyone who comes to Padua Center soon learns about Jonathan Boyle. Usually when center staff calls upon Jonathan, it’s with a hint of desperation over a computer problem. Jonathan is our volunteer IT person. When our internet is down, computers run slowly, printers take a vacation; Jonathan comes and remedies our problems.



At our Kwanzaa Celebration, December 29, 2009, the center honored Jonathan as Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations, Jonathan!

# Windows Installed by Parish Mission Groups

In January, the Diocese of Toledo, Office of Global Concerns, informed Sister Virginia Welsh that it would match a grant offered by the Stranahan Family Foundation for new windows for Padua Center.

The amount of money granted for this project paid for half of cost of the windows. Volunteers from St. Mary Parish in Bluffton, St. Bonifas, Oak Harbor, and St. John's Parish in Delphos offered to install the windows. John Schlumbohm and David Hoffer from Bluffton came one day to appraise the size of the project. A flurry of emails to Harry Flanagan, of Flanagan Builders, followed and a visit from Harry Flanagan and Mike, of Northwest Building Resources, confirmed the correct measurements. Volunteers installed the windows on April 16-17. With the donated labor for the installation, Padua replaced 53 windows. The center can already see the heat bills decrease!



*John Schlumbohm, David Hoffer and Ryan Martin work on the first window installation.*

St. Mary's in Bluffton even provided the refreshments and lunch for the

volunteers! A window installation marathon by volunteers completed this monumental project. Over the two days and approximately 208 hours, the twenty-nine volunteers did the unbelievable!



*Pat and Kevin work on the windows project.*

## Summer Camps Announced

### Vacation Bible School

June 14-18  
Grades K-8

### Padua Potters Environmental

June 21-25  
Grades K-4

### Peace Camp

June 28-July 2  
Grades 5-8

### Healthy Living Camp

July 12-16  
Grades K-8

### Team Work / Sports camp

July 19-23  
Grades 5-8

### Emerging Young Ladies

August 2-6  
Girls- grades 6-8

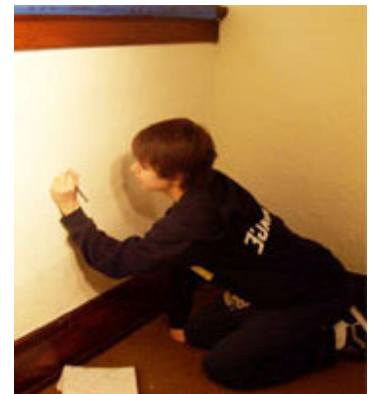
### Maturing Young Men

August 2-6  
Boys-grades 6-8

Call Center to register for our free camps!

## St. John's Jesuit Student Painting an Ohio Mural for Padua Center

Riley Savage of St. John's Jesuit High School volunteered to paint a mural depicting the four seasons. The mural will be on the third floor landing and will include the state flower, birds and other local flora and fauna.



*Riley Savage is sketching in the design for a wall mural he is painting.*

## Kwanzaa Celebration

Each year Padua Center sponsors a Kwanzaa Celebration. This year the “Brighten Up” community organizing group planned the celebration. The Brighten Up group, funded by a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, sponsors activities that help bring the neighborhood together. Mr. Oscar Sheer, a member of the “Brighten Up” organization served as MC for the event. Featured drummers, historians and neighborhood participants made the celebration unique.

Children from the After School tutoring program also participated in the Kwanzaa celebration. The Padua Center uses the principles of Kwanzaa-Nguzo Saba- as guiding principles for all our activities. During the Kwanzaa celebration, the center honored Mr. Jonathan Boyle as “Volunteer of the Year.”



*Mr. Oscar Saheer welcomes everyone to the Kwanzaa Celebration.*

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## Padua Possibilities

On March 30, thirteen former Padua Possibilities children received the honor of becoming Padua Peacemakers because of their improved behavior and success in graduating from the Padua Possibilities program. Children who participate in The Padua Possibilities Program receive referral to the program because of a suspension, or disruptive behavior in school. Spending time in the Padua Possibilities program teaches them new skills for dealing with frustrations. The Padua Peacemakers know how to apply these new skills back in school. The honor provides an opportunity for Padua Center to recognize their improvement.



*Mrs. Alicia Smith (l) and Mrs. Paula Cheeves (partially hidden) distribute rewards to children who improved their behavior through the Padua Possibilities Program.*



## Medical Mutual Adopts Padua Center

Padua Center is forming partnerships with various agencies throughout the city of Toledo. After several visits from Sharon Gillespie, Medical Mutual of Ohio, agreed to become a corporate sponsor of Padua Center. As a corporate sponsor, Medical Mutual of Ohio has provided several financial donations to the Center activities. A very generous donation at Christmas assured that our children would all have Christmas gifts.

# Emerging Young Ladies

Our Emerging Young Ladies continued to meet this year and are now preparing to be the leaders in our newest program offered in April and May.

This year's Young Ladies planned a Halloween Party, visited the Westfield Mall, helped with the Kwanzaa Celebration and most recently visited the Toledo Museum of Art. Our next session of Emerging Young Ladies program takes place on the following dates:

- April 23, 2010 (4:30-7:00 PM)
- April 24, 2010 (11:00 AM-2:00 PM)
- April 30, 2010 (4:30-7:00 PM)
- May 1, 2010 (11:00 AM-2:00 PM)

Graduation takes place on May 8, 2010. A grant from the Sisters of St. Francis in Tiffin, Ohio funds this program.



## Brighten Up Holds Community Meeting

On April 15, the "Brighten Up" community organizing effort met with the community to surface issues for future planning. The meeting took place on the front Porch of Padua Center and included neighbors, Pickett School staff, and the Brighten Up staff. The meeting concluded with sharing of a meal.

### Topics surfaced during the meeting include:

- Beginning communications with the Ohio Players Bike club which recently moved into the neighborhood,
- Getting the community involved in the Community Garden;
- Safety for children on their way to school;
- Contacting the health department because of rats in the area,
- Reinstating an active Block Watch in our six areas.



Ashley, from WetSeal, explains clothing choices to Jasmine Bey.



Andrea Pryor and Gabrielle Esparza distribute programs to a guest at an "Evening with the Toledo Symphony" at St. Martin de Porres Parish.



Community members and Brighten Up staff listen as issues surface.

# Contributions

Anonymous \$100  
John Savage Family  
Matt and Carol Scheiber  
Rev. Joseph Jaros  
Mary Jo Anderson  
Mary Mantey  
Jeanne Zurat  
Sharon Ahrens  
Roberta Wilczynski  
Coleena Ali  
Thomas and Dianne Powers  
St. Vincent de Paul of St. Joan of Arc  
Ed and Sharon Ahlfors  
Lisa Morgan  
Bob and Alice Arnzen  
Walt Pauly  
Paige Price  
Mission Circle #7 Helen A. Schiele  
Andy Good SFO  
Anita Garraway  
Anita Lopez  
Anthony/Shirley Trail  
Augustine Abbott  
Beverly Stephens-Davis  
C. Paul and Cynthia Mohr  
C.A. Kelly-Lopez  
Candace Renner  
Carmen Williamson  
Carol Jackson  
Carol Kraus  
Carolyn and Terry Dotson  
Chris and Ray Soto  
Christopher Amato  
Clancy Yeager  
Dakota King White  
David and Jori Jex  
Dawn Lerma and Matthew Davis  
Deborah Burgess  
Debra Oneal  
Delores Bauer  
Denise and Rachel Weller  
Harry and Annita Flanagan  
Hiram McFarlin  
Elizabeth Facey and Thomas McDonald  
George Pavuk  
Jacqueline Chaney

James/Patrice Barker  
Jay and Susan Koester  
Jeanne Zurat  
Joe Tafelski, Jennifer Teschner  
John Moore  
Ken Cappelletty  
Kenneth Lill  
Lisa Morgan  
Louis and Rochelle Sepanski  
Lynne Hamer  
Mark and Carol Tyson  
Mary Gustwiller  
Mary Jane Flores  
Mary Thebo  
Maxine Boyd Clinkscales  
Michael and Kristen Cavin  
Mingyang Liu  
Monica Holiday-Goodman  
Moreatha Flagg  
Paige Price  
Pamela Wetmore  
Pat and Joe Balderas  
Pat and Marcie McCabe  
Randy and Cheri Disher  
Richard and Olga Perry  
Robert and Betty Kendrick  
Robert and Debbie Welsh  
Rose Marie Newman  
Sharan and William Welsh  
Sharon and Steven Gillespie  
Stephanie and Larry Snyder  
Stephanie and Paul Tyson  
Steve Wirzylo  
Tami and David Rehlau  
Thomas and Dianne Powers  
Walter Pauly  
Warren and Kathy Welsh  
Wil and Gloria Baughn  
William Piasecki, Jr  
Wilma Farmer  
Zella Linzy

## In-Kind

Catholic Charities  
Commerce Paper  
Leshar Printers, Inc  
FLS Marketing

## Grants Received

Stranahan for windows

Diocese of Toledo Matching Funds

Sisters of St. Francis for gardening

Center for Non-Profit Resources for board development and employee handbook

## In Memory of Carolann Reeves

Carolann's Family Members  
Kwik Parking

