



Notre Dame Urban Education Center

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Spring 2019

Dear Friends,

CHRIST IS RISEN

The beauty of the season reminds us that Easter is here. Light overcomes darkness; hope is reborn. God continues to make all things new!

What's new at Notre Dame Urban Education Center? I began my ministry as Executive Director on August 1, 2018. I graduated from Notre Dame Academy, Thomas More, and Xavier. I taught in the Covington and Lexington Dioceses for 25 years and was principal at St. Augustine School, Covington, for 7 years. Having an educational background is pertinent in directing NDUEC.



Maria Schappert, our **new program director**, graduated from Bellevue High School, Thomas More, and Northern Kentucky University. Maria taught 30 years in the Diocese of Covington. We have worked well together in several diocesan elementary schools.

Many children living in Northern Kentucky's urban core are up against obstacles that are hard to overcome. Lack of finances, family support and even proper nutrition can be detrimental to a child's education. Sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Notre Dame Urban Education Center exists to offer transformative educational programs to individuals and families, providing support, restoring hope, and promoting a more fully human life for all.

On the Horizon...

NDUEC is planning to expand our educational services to children beginning at age 4. We count on your support.

Wish List

- Transportation to our Center would benefit many parents. Having money to curtail the cost for hiring transportation would make it possible for more children to attend our program.
- If we had 6-8 Apple Macbooks and 10-12 Apple iPads, this would enrich our tutoring sessions.
- Individually wrapped snacks and drinks would fuel our students' learning.
- Incentives for our students and their families would enhance our family program.

NDUEC Programs

We serve children in grades K-9 and their families. Our Center offers three educational experiences: Homework Plus, Family Program, and Summer Academics.

Modeled on the evidence-based program 21st Century Community Learning Centers, **Homework Plus** formerly known as the afterschool program, provides a safe, nurturing environment in which children are assisted through one-on-one tutoring to meet state and local standards in core academic subjects. Volunteer tutors and staff work with each child providing



homework assistance, reading and math support, and educational skill building activities. The goal of our program is to give

each child the personal experience of academic success while also enhancing their self-esteem and helping them to develop their confidence and motivation to learn.

NDUEC's **Homework Plus** program hosts a variety of groups that come to the Center. Price Waterhouse Cooper from Cincinnati, OH taught our children about finances. The six-week Carnegie In-School Arts Integration program encouraged the students grades 1-3 to make their own super heroes, grades 4-5 were taught improvisation, and grades 6-8 were introduced to storytelling. Friends from the Taft Museum of Art came for two weeks and showed the students how to make prints using paint and different materials. They organized a field trip to the museum and the children toured the art exhibit Winslow Homer to Georgia O'Keefe: American Paintings from the Phillips Collection. The students then painted a picture based on the exhibit.



Our **Family Program** at NDUEC was launched in February 2013. The goal of the Family Program is to provide support, life-skills training on a variety of topics, and coaching on how parents can more effectively support the academic success of their children. Every other month our families gather at 6:00 p.m. for a hot meal followed by a speaker session.



At our last family night in April, four volunteer tutors shared with our families why they choose to spend their time helping children at NDUEC.

Summer Academics will be held on Monday through Thursday during the four weeks in June. It will feature three sessions: math; reading and English; and educational activities. Covington Independent Public School System will provide breakfast and lunch for our children. We are taking registrations from now until May 31st.



New Partnerships

We have reached out to **Lincoln Grant Scholar House** to provide educational assistance to their children. Our mission and theirs work towards transformative education. We have several students and families attending our programs. Our partnership continues to grow.

Notre Dame Urban Education Center is one of over 24 local organizations that have joined in the **Read Ready Covington** initiative. Its purpose is to address deficits in early childhood preparation for kindergarten by providing resources to children and families. Our Mayor Joe Meyer says, "Early literacy must become a shared community value," He has appointed Mary Kay Connolly to coordinate this initiative. We are working in partnership with Mary Kay to improve the literacy skills of those we serve.



We have over 130 adult and high school tutors who have given over 7215.5 hours of service to NDUEC since June 2018. If you are interested in joining this auspicious group, please contact us at volunteer@nduec.org. All volunteers must be Virtus compliant.



If you are ever in Covington, KY, please stop by and see the good work being accomplished at NDUEC.

We are very excited about our growing mission and thank you for all the ways you have helped us get this far. You, along with our generous community help change lives of underserved children in the urban core, who all live in some level of poverty. We are grateful for your continued and faithful support!

Sincerely,

Sister Maria Therese, SND
Executive Director