

Patchwork Programming Update

What a summer we had at Patchwork, and what a fall we're looking forward to!

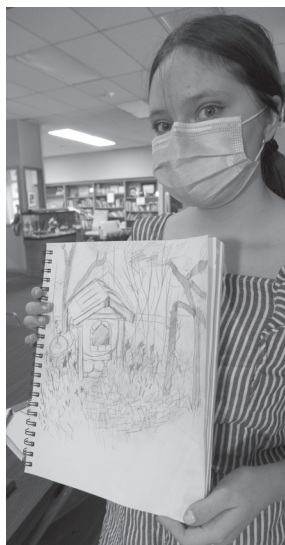
Sure, it's been much quieter around our building. We spent time staying home with the rest of the nation. We've been physically distanced. We've kept our faces covered.



But, we've also found new ways of being together and of building community despite the constraints of the COVID-19 crisis.

We re-opened our food pantry early on so we could join in the community effort to make sure no one was going hungry. In July, we added our Shade Tree Hospitality and Sozo Health Ministry to the times when the food pantry was open. These are modified versions of our previous programming. We set up a hospitality area outdoors in Patchwork's front courtyard where we offer snacks and conversation along with blood pressure checks and answers to medical questions. Patchwork's front lawn is a green and inviting place to reconnect with everyone.

During the summer, our



Arts & Smarts staff scrapped all of their plans and switched our summer programming to take-home kits, online classroom activities, and in-person activities for individual families. They invited Susan Fowler to tell us stories, they invited Jean Page to teach art, and they invited the Southwestern Indiana Master Gardeners to teach about gardening. This fall, we're modifying the Arts & Smarts Program to allow for safer in-person activities and to respond in an individualized way to each family involved.

Meanwhile, Patchwork's Worship Community has found a safe place to gather through virtual worship services on Facebook Live. It's been an opportunity for new people to join us for the weekly services.



Starting the day after Labor Day, our schedule expanded to something close to what it was pre-COVID crisis. Mornings, Monday-Thursday our staff and volunteers are here 9 am-noon providing services from the Shade Tree Hospitality, Food Pantry, and Sozo Health Ministry. The Bike Shop is open 9 am-noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During these hours, our buildings remain closed to the public, but guests can meet with our staff and volunteers on Patchwork's front courtyard. Afternoons, our staff and volunteers are here 2 pm-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday to operate the Arts & Smarts Children's Program.

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Patchwork Programming Update (Continued)

During the Arts & Smarts Program, building access is limited to the participants, volunteers, and staff who are scheduled to be here each day.

We're all working together to continue to provide services large and small within our community while helping to keep our guests, volunteers, staff, participants, and their families safe and healthy!



Fall Arts & Smarts



The pencils, pens, and paper were carefully organized. The Junior Leader training manuals were carefully stacked. Paint, brushes, and canvas boards were lined up. Youth slowly began arriving at Patchwork on the day after Labor Day.

Jane, Rita, Leslie, Jean, and a team of college interns had been busy planning and preparing. In some ways, this will be like any other year. But, of course, this isn't like any year before. Along with plans for homework help, leadership training, and art projects, we've drawn up plans for disinfecting and social distancing.

We examined the things that are at the core of what we do at Patchwork, and we redesigned our Arts & Smarts program in response to the COVID-19 crisis. And what is at our core? The ability to connect individually with children and their families. The ability to surround each child with a community of adults and other children who are all encouraging

one another to explore the things that interest them, to do their best in life, and to do their part to make the world a better place.



We spent time talking to each of the families who participated in our Arts & Smarts program last year. We wanted to hear from them: How can we help? What are you lacking this year? What

gaps can we help fill? We're scheduling our days to a degree that we never have before, and we're limiting the number of participants who can join us each day. This will help us make sure we have sufficient space among everyone involved.

Additionally, we've moved the desks out of the tutoring room and set them up in Patchwork's main room to allow for better airflow and more space between students and the adults assisting them. In place of our regular Tutoring Program, this Homework Help will be available for children every day that they are scheduled to be at Patchwork. For many families, simply having reliable access to Wi-Fi and knowledgeable adults to provide minor tech support will make a huge difference.

Of course, we'll also be doing the usual fun things like creating art, eating healthy snacks, playing games, and gardening, and we'll be strengthening old friendships and building new ones.



NAP Tax Credits Available

Do you owe taxes to the State of Indiana? Does your business?

Would you like to reduce the amount you owe the State while strengthening Patchwork's award winning Arts & Smarts Children's Program?

Donate to Patchwork through the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)!

As an NAP donor, you receive 50% of your donation as a credit (subtracted from your tax liability) on your Indiana State tax return plus you can deduct the full contribution on your federal income tax form if you itemize deductions.

Patchwork has a limited number of NAP tax credits allotted to us, and we distribute these on a first come, first served basis until they are all claimed.

We currently have a little over \$3400 NAP credits remaining, meaning that we can accept \$6800 in donations.

NAP donations may be made in cash or in appreciated stock. The minimum donation to qualify for NAP credits is \$100. All donations that Patchwork receives as part of the NAP program are used to support our Arts & Smarts Children's program.

If you would like to donate to Patchwork through NAP or if you would like more information about NAP, please contact John Rich at (812) 424-2735 or JohnRich@Patchwork.org.

(Be sure to consult your own tax professional to understand exactly how your donations and NAP credits will affect your taxes.)

Happy Retirement, Dixie!

Happy Retirement, Dixie!

For over 15 years, Dixie Wilsbacher wholeheartedly served Patchwork as our Tutoring Coordinator. In that time, many families depended upon Patchwork's tutoring program to help their children to learn, build confidence, and find academic success. With Dixie at the helm, Patchwork's tutoring program was in good hands, and the children and families knew this.

In addition to all the responsibilities of directing the tutoring program, Dixie spent many summer Art Garden weeks with us as an unofficial Musician in Residence. She loved to sing, play her piano, and teach silly songs to the children. She would even rewrite popular song lyrics to talk about Patchwork's summer activities.

Dixie has been a loving and teaching presence in the after-school program at Patchwork Central, and she will be greatly missed. We hope she will not be a stranger, and we wish her a wonderful retirement.

—Jane Vickers



Small Things with Great Joy

“Do small things with great joy.”

That was the quote that came to Gail LaFief’s mind when I asked her to summarize her past couple months of providing Shade Tree Hospitality on Patchwork’s front lawn.



Indeed, it has been very much about the small things: a cup of lemonade, some fresh produce, a blood pressure check, a short chat about life.

Gail observed, “There’s minimal service, but it’s received with much appreciation.”

She told the story of a woman who came to Patchwork in the middle of having a difficult day. Gail characterized the woman’s mood when she arrived as “unsatisfied.” She wasn’t happy that her initial request of Patchwork could not be met, but Gail and Shawn spoke with her to find out more. In the end, there were some things they could do to assist her.

“And she left blessing us,” Gail said. “We hadn’t offered a lot, but it was accompanied by Patchwork’s usual generosity of spirit.”

Gail observed that in re-starting Patchwork Hospitality in a new, socially-distanced format “there was a sense of reunion, of people getting together who had not seen each other for a while.”

We continue to meet with our guests outdoors and to keep our building closed to the public, so our daily Hospitality Hostesses have taken on new roles greeting everyone who arrives and coordinating services between these guests and the staff and volunteers inside our building.



They list the extra produce that’s available for the taking. They ask initial food pantry intake questions and relay requests for referrals to Shawn in the main office. They locate John in order to track down some extra supplies from the Sozo Health Ministry.

The day after Gail was here, Mary Damm laughed recounting a meeting with Clay, one of our past regulars who stopped by a couple weeks ago. She told him, “I’m not supposed to do this, but let me give you a hug.”

“OK,” he’d responded, but thinking of her he added, “But let me put my mask on first.”



After Mary told her story, Nancy Bock appeared with two plantains from the food pantry. She handed one to James, another of our regular guests who had stopped by to visit. Along with the banana, she gave him a cooking challenge: cut it up and fry it and see how it tastes.

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Small Things with Great Joy (Continued)

She would do the same with hers, and when she sees him again next Thursday, they will compare notes to see who cooked it best. He reminisced about the fried banana desserts he'd seen when he worked at the Petroleum Club restaurant.

At that point, it was time to close up shop and roll the snack cart indoors for the morning.

You'll find us providing Shade Tree Hospitality on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am-noon. After Labor Day, we'll expand that to Monday-Thursday from 9 am-noon.

A Different Back to School

For well over 25 years, Patchwork has held a sale before the start of school to help equip children to learn. Over the years, the supplies included in our sale have changed a little as classrooms have changed. For instance, things like dry erase markers have replaced red ballpoint pens. However, the sale has been a constant in the community, and many people know to watch for publicity about it. But, our 2020 Back to School Sale was different. Everything is different these days.

Families were facing a lot of uncertainty as the start of school approached. Because of COVID-19, many of the other back to school events around the city were cancelled. However, we were still here and doing what we could.

In the interest of simplicity and social distancing, we sold our usual kits, but we did not sell our usual socks, underwear, and assorted supplies.



We took extra precautions against coronavirus. Families remained outdoors. We helped unrelated households stay at least six feet from one another. Sales took place at Patchwork's front door, and a wonderful team of volunteers brought our customers' orders out to them. It was a wonderful morning, and at the end of it the families of over 150 children were well-stocked with school supplies and were that much more ready for whatever they will encounter this school year.

We never pause long when it comes to the Back to School Sale. The end of the summer is the time to find deep discounts on school supplies, so that is when we stock up for next year! We watch teacher supply lists each year and adjust the bag contents accordingly. Our shoppers have already been busy, and our school supply closet is filling with cases of next year's supplies.

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A Different Back to School (Continued)

One step inside and you are surrounded by the sweet and nostalgic smell of crayons.

We charge a small fee of \$6-\$8 for each pre-packed bag of supplies, but the actual value of the bag's contents is much higher. Patchwork pays the difference as part of our mission. Because we charge a small fee, we don't have to ask parents a million, probing questions to see if they qualify for aid, and parents don't have to bring their children simply to prove that those children exist. We also think it is important to offer standardized bags of supplies for all our customers, so we purchase items in bulk rather than do donation drives which would result in a wide variety of items.

If you'd like to help us in this effort, the best way to do so is to send financial contributions designated for the Back to School Sale and to watch for announcements about next year's sale if you'd like to volunteer.



E-NEWSLETTER

MORE STORIES! MORE PHOTOS! MORE NEWS!

Sign up for our bi-weekly e-newsletter!
You will receive email updates highlighting the
most recent happenings at Patchwork.

Simply visit our website,
www.Patchwork.org, and click the
"join our mailing list" link!

BEQUESTS

The next time you update your will, please consider
adding Patchwork Central, Inc. as a beneficiary.
As a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, Patchwork is
eligible to receive donations from bequests.
Any size of gift makes a big difference in providing
for our programming and contributing to our
long-term stability.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

During this time of shocial distancing,
the Patchwork Community is meeting
for virtual worship on Patchwork Central's
Facebook page every **Sunday at 5:15 p.m.**

Worship is led by volunteers and changes
every week. You are welcome to join us!



*Please be generous as you consider
sending your cash contribution in the
envelopes provided for your convenience.
Your generosity will help us to continue
the Patchwork tradition of providing these
many creative programs.*

Patchwork Central, Inc.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Patchwork Central creates community, honors personal
dignity, empowers people, and encourages spiritual and
social growth through its programs and hospitality, its
opportunities for learning, its creative atmosphere and
cultivation of the arts, and its work toward reconciliation and
a more peaceful and just world.

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