



I AM AMANI

2022 NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS'

AMANI REPORT

NEIGHBORHOOD
PRIORITY AREA:

Neighborhood Safety

WHAT AMANI WILL DO: Increase neighbors' willingness to support self, other neighbors, and community to achieve community peace.

INDICATOR OF SUCCESS: • Residents report willingness to actively support the achievement of community peace. • Residents report engagement in actively supporting the achievement of community peace. • Residents report engagement in addressing public safety efforts.

DATA YOU CAN USE

FROM PEOPLE YOU CAN TRUST

■ TRAIN THE TRAINER

Collective Impact Survey Visualized, Shared in Amani

In October, DYCU partnered with Safe and Sound to share data that Amani residents had identified as priorities through a Collective Impact survey that took place in 2021. Data for gun violence, traffic accidents and voter registration was visualized using maps and charts and shared with residents participating in the Train the Trainer series. DYCU hopes to continue working with Amani residents and partners who will use and share the data for planning.



■ **TRAIN THE TRAINER**

Amani Partnership Provides Sustainable Leader Training



From September to November Safe and Sound, Inc partnered with the Dominican Center, Data you Can Use and Wisconsin Voices to offer the Milwaukee Resident Leadership Training courses to Amani residents. This training series will provide sustainable leadership training through generations.

The purpose of this training was to train Amani residents and provide them with tools and vocabulary to then go out and train others to be leaders in their own communities.

Safe & Sound, Inc and the MPD District Five team presented the material and engaged the participants in that training. The material focused on addressing community trauma, prevention and the principles of community organizing. Another point that this training illustrates is that healing is the starting point to seeing sustainable change in Amani and beyond.



PRIORITY AREA: **NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY**



■ **TRAFFIC SAFETY IN AMANI**

AARP & Partners Work to Curb Reckless Driving in Amani

In an effort to make the roads and sidewalks more safe for the people who walk them, AARP Wisconsin brought Jonathon Stalls, founder of Walk2Connect and Pedestrian Dignity and author of "WALK: Slow Down, Wake Up and Connect at 1-3 Miles per Hour," to Amani Oct. 6.

According to Stalls, Pedestrian Dignity events center the lived experience of all who walk, use a wheelchair and take transit as their primary form of transpor-

tation. "We will move with the many gaps and opportunities facing all who walk, roll and use the bus in car-dominated build environments," Stalls said.

The group walked with Amani residents, Wisconsin Bike Federation, Dominican Center and Amani United. This event highlighted the work organizations are doing in Amani to curb reckless driving and make the neighborhood safe for the people who live and work in Amani.



To continue this work, partners held community meetings about traffic safety in the area. AARP, Wisconsin Bike Federation and Dominican Center also coordinated a speed study of the intersection at 25th & Locust and has committed to providing speed deterrents there.

PRIORITY AREA: **NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY**

■ **COMING TOGETHER FOR SAFETY**

DC Focuses on Clean Ups, Resources, Fire & Traffic Safety



The Dominican Center held 11 neighborhood cleanups in partnership with several organizations including Amani United, Safe & Sound, MPD Dist 5, Milwaukee Fire Department and Welcome Home Milwaukee.

In addition, DC created a summer series of Pop Up Outreach Days. The community resource fairs moved throughout the neighborhood to reach residents in the busiest parts of Amani. DC distributed resources and safety items like gun locks. The six Pop Up events were held in June, July, August and September and featured partners offering services and vital resources in the community including Amani United, COA, Safe & Sound, DHHS, MPD, Fatherhood Fire, DHHS Department on Aging Services, DNS and Wraparound Milwaukee.

DC also worked to bring safety inside the homes of Amani residents. DC, Amani United, Milwaukee Fire Department, DNS, Safe & Sound, COA and



Samad's House all came together to check and install smoke detectors in resident's houses at an event in October. After volunteers and firefighters completed the work, organizations gathered for a resource fair.

DC also continues to work with residents and partners to curb reckless driving in Amani. DC in partnership with Well-Point Care Network distributed 80 "slow down" yard signs

throughout the neighborhood.

DC, along with AARP, Amani United, the Wisconsin Bike Fed and Amani residents turned an idea into action to slow traffic at 25th & Locust. After witnessing a pedestrian accident at a community walk, the group met with residents to gain input on traffic safety. DC participated in a speed study and helped determine safety measures for the intersection.

NEIGHBORHOOD
PRIORITY AREA:

Education & Family Well-Being

WHAT AMANI WILL DO: Increase family well-being and life-long learning.

INDICATOR OF SUCCESS: • Amani Residents serve on decision making teams in neighborhood organizations. • Organizations serving Amani connect with residents that need the services provided. • Amani Residents have access to all services needed to have positive family well-being.



PRIORITY AREA: EDUCATION & FAMILY WELL-BEING



COMMUNITY STARTS WITH YOUTH

Safe & Sound, Inc. Prioritizes Amani's Youth Residents

Amani Youth Councils Fun Fridays

Cierra Woods, Youth Organizer from Safe & Sound participated in Amani Youth Council's Fun Fridays every other Friday throughout the summer.

The youth are a big priority in Amani, they have something to say, and the Amani Youth Council gives them that platform but it is the job of the partners in Amani to lift their

voice even higher. Fun Fridays gave youth in Amani something safe and fun to do in the summer. Cierra worked closely with Solei, the President of Amani Youth Council and the youth informed her that they would appreciate more snacks and more games to play. Cierra provided that for them and provided resources for other events to do throughout the summer.

Safe Summer Kick off

COA hosted a block party to



promote a Safe summer. The goal was to bring residents, youth and organizations together to highlight positive things for youth to do throughout the summer. Safe and Sound provided free youth programming and ice cream that occurred throughout the year.



■ **ADULT EDUCATION**

Students Learn & Connect at DC

The Dominican Center has offered GED and HSED readiness classes since its founding. DC works with Community Supported Organizations to prepare students to earn their degrees. In 2022, our Adult Education program began bringing students back to in-person learning. This allows us to help students and their families with resources and individual supportive services.



■ **ART CONNECTS ALL AGES**

The Rep Engages, Educates & Entertains Amani Families

We were able to connect families to community resources, including hosting a dinner and tickets to a professional theater production at Milwaukee Rep on April 12. We also provided entertainment as a part of the Safe Summer Kickoff in Moody Park. The goals for both of these was to engage residents, focusing on family and wellbe-

ing while increasing communications and connectedness amongst residents.

As a part of our Next Narrative Monologue Competition, we offered workshops for teens focused on literacy, social emotional learning, and building confidence through theater. Workshops were done at COA.



PRIORITY AREA: EDUCATION & FAMILY WELL-BEING



■ FOCUSING ON FAMILIES

Annual Safe Summer Kickoff a Blast for Amani Families

Every year, COA Youth & Family Centers brings the Amani community together for Safe Summer Kick-off, a block party extravaganza first created to celebrate healing, recreation, and safety in the Amani Neighborhood. Safe Summer Kick-off brings people together to enjoy great food, music, and



company, while participating in a wide variety of family-friendly activities.

We had 331 registered attendees at Safe Summer Kick Off

and Beyond the Book, Bag served 308 children from 109 families.

In partnership with Advocate Health we opened up the clinic space in the Goldin Center. Since September there have been 39 visits. The clinic is currently open 3 days a week.

■ **FEEDING AMANI FAMILIES**

Feeding America Distributes More than 22k Pounds of Food

Through three food distributions in the summer of 2022, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and Northwestern Mutual collaborated with the Dominican Center to distribute over 13,000 pounds of food. Through mobile food pantries run at the Dominican Center, Amani residents struggling with food insecurity were given access to culturally relevant and nutritious foods like frozen pizzas, chicken, beef, milk, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, diapers, and a variety of pantry items. On average, each resident received over 50 pounds of food per visit, approximately enough food to prepare 43 meals.

Residents were also given the opportunity to connect with different community resources through community organizations who showed up to do outreach for their services. They learned about available services and organizations like Food-Share, Safe & Sound, Milwaukee County Workforce Development, Amani United, and the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee.

Rising food costs have made many items at the grocery store more and more unaffordable for low-income families throughout



2022. To help connect residents to the healthy and fresh groceries they need, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin partnered with Northwestern Mutual to hold 8 mobile food pantries out of Auer Avenue Elementary School in 2022. The pantry

was available to both families with children that attend Auer Avenue school and members of the general public from September to May. Over the course of 2022, nearly 9,000 pounds of food were distributed. Residents were able to choose which food items to bring home: empowering them to make the healthy choices that are right for their families. Fresh fruits and vegetables like grapes, mini-cucumbers, and potatoes were popular options for those who attended.

PRIORITY AREA: EDUCATION & FAMILY WELL-BEING



PRIORITY AREA: **EDUCATION & FAMILY WELL-BEING**



■ **AMANI YOUTH GO TO WASHINGTON**

DC Leads Group to Expand Knowledge, Build Relationships

Dominican Center led a group of 21 Amani Youth and three chaperons departed in June for a trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. Youth visited museums, landmarks, DC tourist spots and historically Black college Howard University. They learned about past struggles and what they can do for a brighter future. “For me, in the future, I want to do more things,” said Dayvida Brown, a trip participant.

The educational aspects of the trip were paramount, but it was also about taking youth out of their comfort zone and building relationship with their peers in the Amani community. The youth said that this experience helped them see different perspectives and will help them build relationships in the future. “I didn’t know any of these people until we went on this trip. It was scary but I had fun,” said Envyana Scott, another youth participant.



Amani Youth take on Washington each year, but this was the first trip since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The trip, funded by the Herb Kohler Foundation, was postponed in 2020 and 2021.

PRIORITY AREA: EDUCATION & FAMILY WELL-BEING

The Dominican Center also increased Education and Family Well-Being in Amani with community contact and educational and wellness opportunities. DC made 3,000 door-to-door contacts in 2023. DC held 40 community meetings and 30 events, in which more than 830 Amani residents were served.

- DC served 470 Amani families through food giveaways in 2022. This summer, in partnership with Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, DC distributed 14,000 pounds of healthy food at three mobile food pantries. DC also held a Thanksgiving giveaway in partnership with Aurora and a Christmas giveaway in partnership with Northwestern Mutual. These events also included partner resources, diapers and hygiene items.

- DC continues to be a leader with the expansion of the Hydroponics program. In 2022, DC grew, sold and donated flowers to beautify Amani and grew healthy organic greens and a Thanksgiving gift for residents. DC has also trained residents of all ages how to grow hydroponically.

- DC supported the Amani Youth Council with their annual March Against Violence, their



Thanksgiving Feast and their winter coat drive. DC also supports the Amani United Education & Family Well-Being Committee and Friends of Moody Park with a blanket drive and 12 community meetings.

- DC supported Family Well-Being by providing education and access to voting information. In partnership with Amani United, Wisconsin



Voices and AARP, DC registered voters and distributed information about local elections and voting for seniors. DC also participated in a virtual Mayoral Forum and a Senate debate at Washington High School.

NEIGHBORHOOD
PRIORITY AREA:

Housing & Economic Development

WHAT AMANI WILL DO: Improve housing conditions through the model block strategy in the Amani Neighborhood.

INDICATOR OF SUCCESS: • Improve conditions on the Model Block and Beta Block.
• Increased reported resident participation in Amani Beautification Efforts by 100%.

■ REPRESENTING RESIDENTS

Legal Aid Provides Service to 347 Amani Households in 2022



Staff Attorney Anthony Garcia, Legal Aid's neighborhood lawyer in 53206, engaged with residents at regular community outreach sites throughout 2022, including, Coffee Makes You Black, House of Peace, the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary, and the Dominican Center. Attorney Garcia and Legal Aid staff and summer interns also participated in the Dominican Center Mobile Food Pantry event on June 28, 2022.

In 2022, Legal Aid lawyers provided direct legal representation to 347 households in 53206 for cases involving landlord-tenant law through expansion of its Eviction Free MKE project, Social Security benefit appeals, student loan debt and consumer contracts, and estate planning documents.



PRIORITY AREA: HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Legal Aid staff also provided guidance in the following matters:

- Pardon application completion and submission to Governor Evers' Pardon Commission, which when granted, removes impediments to loans, licensure, subsidized housing, and erases the overall stigma related to a felony conviction.
- Quit Claim Deed execution / submission to clear title and enable residents to apply for financial support for home improvements that ultimately lifts up blocks and entire neighborhoods.
- Landlord and Tenant education via Legal Aid's FB page to help both landlords and tenants understand respective rights and responsibilities.

Legal Aid provided legal clinics close to home on matters critical to the health and vitality of the Amani neighborhood:

- Business law seminar at Moody Park Pavilion on November 17, 2022: Gold standard legal advice and representation from Legal Aid's partnership with the von Briesen Business Practice Group - for Amani residents wishing to launch a new business or ensure the continued success of an existing one.
- Estate planning clinic on December 1, 2022: Hosted by the Dominican Center for residents to discuss and complete Wills and related documents with Legal Aid staff attorneys to ensure the preservation of intergenerational wealth.



■ **RESIDENT LEADERSHIP**

AU Continues to support the Amani Revitalization Plan



Amani United is a resident-led community group committed to serving residents. Amani United Housing & Economic Development Committee's 2022 highlights include:

- **HOUSING REPAIRS** - we are in conversations to re-establish our partnership with the housing vouchers, which gave residents the opportunity to do small repairs or/and upgrades to their property.

- **RON (reclaiming our neighborhoods) HOUSING CO-ALITION** - Amani United & Dominican Center has partnered with RON to conduct housing surveys of the exterior of houses and mixed use buildings in Amani. In this data collection we were able to identify homeowners, out-of-state property owners, renters and city owned properties. We also identified the number of repairs needed on these prop-

erties. Over 3,000 properties were surveyed by approximately 20 residents (who were compensated for their time).

- **BLOCK BY BLOCK** - the work on the pilot block is nearing an end and Amani United has had an opportunity to utilize the training house for resident meetings. In addition an investor of the city-owned property located on the Beta Block is in the final stages of approval for development. Residents in that area are being engaged and applying home repairs. As committee chair, Barbara Smith is continuing to engage new and re-engage former residents in educating, informing and introducing non-traditional ways of homeownership.

- **FOOD DRIVES** - Amani United assisted Dominican Center

with three summer pantries and two holiday giveaways.

- **AMANI UNITED BOARD** - Amani United elections were held in October and Elizabeth Brown was elected president.

- **GUN SAFETY** - In an Amani United Safety/Ambassador meeting, a resident voiced concerns regarding gun violence in the city, as a result we immediately went to work to establish a Responsible Gun Ownership Campaign in Amani. The campaign was chaired by the concerned resident and the former Safety/Ambassador Chair Bro RiceBey. Amani United and Dominican Center collaborated with numerous partners over months to bring in presenters focused on the subject.

PRIORITY AREA: HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



• **TRAIN THE TRAINER** - Amani United, along with residents had the opportunity to be apart of a seven week resident leadership training, facilitated by Safe & Sound in partnership with Dominican Center, Data You Can Use and Wisconsin Voices. We took part in Collective Impact training.

• **PEDESTRIAN DIGNITY** - Amani United had the great pleasure of connecting with AARP Wisconsin Walking Movement and the author of "Walk: Slow Down, Wake Up, And Connect at 1-3 Miles per Hour" and founder of Pedestrian Dignity,

Jonathan Stalls, in October. We conducted a neighborhood walk which included approximately 25 people from numerous areas of city government, neighborhoods, Amani residents and Dominican Center staff. Mr. Stalls helped us to identify the unsafe walkways and street crossings on our route. The next day the group walked along Locust with the same purpose and intent, and we even made a TikTok! Ending our walk we witnessed our worst thoughts, a pedestrian involved accident. In this incident, it put our efforts of safe streets into overdrive: We



held meetings with residents, city officials and conducted an unofficial speed study with AARP, Milwaukee Walks, Bike Fed and Amani residents. There are now plans of bump outs, roundabouts and traffic calming planters, street scap-ing, speed limit signage, speed bumps and more. Traffic safety meetings are ongoing.

PRIORITY AREA: HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



REVITALIZING RESIDENTS' HOMES

DC Rocks the Block to Kick Off Work on Amani's Beta Block



Dominican Center hosted two Rock the Block events to support the efforts of the Block by Block initiative on 22nd & Locust and 23rd & Locust.

The events, held in May and June each featured a block cleanup, small home repairs and block beautification efforts; as well as fun, fellowship



and food. Partner organizations also brought resources and information to share with residents on the block.

Partners in the Block by Block

initiative include DC, Amani United, Northwestern Mutual, LISC, Milwaukee Christian Center, Ezekiel CDC, Legal Aid Society, KG Development Group and JP Morgan Chase & Co.

■ **HEALTHY HOUSING**

DC Continues Housing, Economic Support for Residents



DC worked with nine other neighborhoods in the Reclaiming Our Neighborhoods initiative to survey the exterior of all homes in Amani. DC worked with Amani United and Amani residents to collect the data and neighborhood partner Data You Can Use analyzed the data to help us form goals and plans to revitalize housing in Amani.

In addition, DC was pleased to offer residents seminars to help with their economic well-being



including Entrepreneurship 101 and Estate Planning seminars, both held in partnership with Legal Aid Society.

DC also assisted Amani United

Housing & Economic Development Committee with informational meetings on Home Buying, the Amani Model Home opportunity and fair housing.

■ **AMANI BY THE NUMBERS**

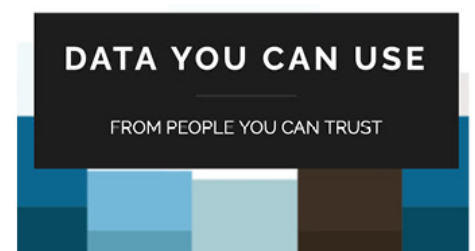
Data from Survey to Help Determine Housing Resources

DYCU served as the data partner for the Reclaiming Our Neighborhoods housing survey work. Through this process, results from the 2022 Amani Housing survey were analyzed and visualized.

Property lists, maps and data visualizations showing which homes in Amani needed mul-

iple major repairs and who owns these homes (owner occupant, investor or the City of Milwaukee). The results of this survey will help Amani partners determine what housing resources are needed and which homes should be prioritized.

In addition, the Dominican Center presented and was



awarded a Data Dream at the DYCU annual Data Day event in October, 2022. This work will begin in 2023.



THANK YOU 2022 NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS FOR
CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN AMANI

