



Photo submitted by COA

Amani End of Year Report 2019

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Mr. Rogers sang, “It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor. Would you be mine; could you be mine. Won’t you be my neighbor?” Amani United wants the answer to be YES, together we will ensure it is a beautiful day in the Amani neighborhood.

- Data You Can Use worked with staff, partners and residents to share the results of the neighborhood survey. Too often residents are asked for data and the information is never shared back with them. Partnering with the Dominican Center, Data You Can Use developed door hang-

ers with survey results and did pop-up data chats to share the data with residents. The data was also used to help tell the story of Amani at a community engagement conference at the Medical College of Wisconsin and at Data Day at Northwestern Mutual’s Data Science Institute.

- Submitted by Data You Can Use

- The Jewish Community Pantry completed a Block Cleanup at 29th and Center Street in October. We clean the community around our food pantry to restore neighborhood pride, make the food pantry more safe for families who utilize it

for their well-being.

We would like to brag about our 20+ volunteers, including Bro. Rice Bey, who joined together to fill 30 trash bags, 10 lawn waste bags and an entire curb with 4 feet of brush. It was a powerful group effort and we believe the photos speak for themselves!

We are proud of our pantry and now we can feel proud about the physical space surrounding it. One of our neighbors came to thank us for our cleanup efforts. She has owned her home for fifty years and was very grateful for the newly cleaned lot. It was a positive experience all around.

- Submitted by Harry and Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center



A pop up data chat (above) and door hangers (at right) helped share the results of a neighborhood survey.



Submitted by
Data You Can Use



Submitted by Jewish Community Pantry
The Jewish Community Pantry Block Cleanup.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

• In 2019, Safe & Sound established two new block clubs in the Amani Neighborhood (namely Friends of Moody Park and Burleigh “RING” Group) – these groups were created as a result of the 15 donated Ring Doorbell camera systems that were installed in the Amani Neighborhood. The clubs communicate with one another to share information that comes from the Ring Doorbell program.

Additionally, the Safe & Sound Community Organizer scheduled monthly one-on-one sessions with residents regarding Ring Doorbell camera footage and how to report information to the Amani Safety team.

As the weather warmed up this summer, Safe & Sound organizers noticed tensions rising in and around Moody Park. Sensing things might get worse before they get better, partners worked together to quickly come up with solutions that would address resident and youth concerns and positively activate Moody Park. As a result, Safe & Sound hosted a Moody Park Town Hall Meeting between Mayor Tom Barrett and the youth and residents of Amani. The event was attended by 21 youth and 5 adult residents. The candid conversation allowed the Mayor to hear the voices of the youth regarding their perceptions of safety and lack of programming available to them in the neighborhoods, and the youth and residents to feel their voices and concerns were heard. State Representative



Submitted by Safe & Sound

Safe & Sound held a Moody Park Town Hall meeting between Mayor Tom Barrett and the youth and residents of Amani.

Safe & Sound Amani Neighborhood Impact

- 88 front porch conversations
- 200+ surveys administered to measure collective efficacy in Amani
- 72 community meetings and events, engaging 1,319 adult residents and 1,909 youth
- 37 of 72 meetings were youth focused
- 13,081 flyers were distributed in Amani. These flyers connect residents to resources, career opportunities and events
- 116 instances of nuisances were abated in Amani

Kaylan Haywood Jr. was also on hand to join the conversation. Safe & Sound hosted an Amani Drug Take Back event where 40 pounds of medication was safely turned in to the Milwaukee Police Department for safe disposal.

This summer Safe & Sound organized the Moody Park 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament to promote peace and stop violence in the park. More than 50 youth, 33 adults and officers from the District 5 MPD

were engaged at the event. Attendees also received information about ceasing the violence in Moody Park.

- Submitted by Safe & Sound

As we enter 2020, help us spread the good news. Amani means peace and we are United! Together, we can change the narrative. Continue to brag about the good work, positive changes, and inspiring stories from our Neighborhood.

EDUCATION & FAMILY WELL BEING

• In 2019, COA's food pantry served over 700 residents monthly and included access to legal assistance, housing assistance, energy assistance, and clothing.

This year, the COA Family Resource Center began also partnering with Aurora Hospital to provide "Centering Pregnancy – Centering Parenting" for expectant and new mothers in Amani at the Goldin Center.

COA is providing daily after school and summer programming for 548 students at the Auer Avenue School (K – 5 th grade) and for Amani youth (ages 6 – 18) including academics, visual and performing arts, a wide range of sports programs, STEM programming, computer learning, entertainment, and community service.

Through COA, youth leaders are being identified, trained, and given the opportunity to lead!

- Submitted by COA

• Originally the group was named "REAL"ationships. Now there are two different groups, "REAL"ationships and "REAL"leadership. The leader group evolved from the first set of youth we worked with and now they plan and implement programming for the newer group while being supported by the adults in the program. This started as a collaboration between the Zeidler Center, Safe & Sound, Community Advocates and COA. The partners that are left are Community Advo-



Submitted by COA

COA provides daily after school and summer programming for 548 students at the Auer Avenue School and for Amani Youth.



'REAL' lationships youth group met this year to discuss safety issues in Moody Park and Amani.

Submitted by Safe & Sound

Although several of the original staff partners are no longer with their agencies they are just as involved with this group as they were in the beginning. They continue to volunteer their support to ensure the program continues.

There are 25 to 40 youth at any given meeting between the ages of 9 and 22. The youth, with the guidance of the adults in the program, have learned many new skills so that they

might be able to navigate through their everyday lives better. They have done trainings that range from interviewing, black leadership, as well as working with residents on community projects. They have planned youth- focused community events and have been very successful. They have worked with several partner agencies including Imagine MKE, Moody Park, Visual Vids, Hephatha Church, Amani United and Children's Hospital.

EDUCATION & FAMILY WELL BEING



Milwaukee Rep members with Amani United President Bro. RiceBey and Dominican Center Organizer Richard Diaz.

Submitted by Milwaukee Rep Theatre

They continue to meet twice a week as well as on other days to discuss plans for future meetings. They continue to plan youth activities and celebrate their growth!

Additionally, REALationships coordinated to provide space for youth and law enforcement to participate in a 6-week series of interactive workshops aimed at building positive relationships. The group discussed safety issues in Moody Park and the Amani neighborhood and brainstormed how to repair the broken trust amongst youth and residents. Youth received a \$100 stipend each for their consistent participation. Block ambassadors were invited to attend the sessions to support the relationship build with law enforcement.

- Submitted by COA and Safe & Sound

- In 2019, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin provided more than 57,000 pounds of food through Auer Avenue School sponsored by Northwestern Mutual. Each month, over 100 families

attended the mobile food pantry. Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin gave fresh and nutritious foods to families including fresh fruits, vegetables, beans, rice, meat, and a variety of other items. Food was given to households free of charge and participants were incredibly grateful for the gifts .

- Submitted by Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin

- Milwaukee Repertory Theatre started off the year with a Neighborhood Night for August Wilson's Two Trains Running. And we also announced our August Wilson Monologue Competition which is a part of a national network of theaters that gives voice to youth through the works of America's Shakespeare. After School programming began at the COA Goldin Center in September, where so far we have offered several spoken word poetry workshops and contributed entertainment at the Beyond the Bookbag event in Moody Park.

We continue to provide our in-school programming at locations in and near Amani including NOVA

Middle/High School, Auer Avenue School, Hopkins-Lloyd Community School, and Andrew S. Douglas Middle School. Our programs bring hundreds of Amani students to the theater each year and deliver content that increases literacy scores and social emotional learning competencies.

Richard Diaz, of the Dominican Center, approached us in early 2019 to create something around the lead crisis, which started a year-long partnership and collaboration with the Coalition for Lead Emergency. In pursuit of this project, we brought community organizers, artists and citizens from Amani to Chicago to train at the Center for Performance and Civic Practice so that we might organically develop projects rooted in creating positive change. Our current project will carry on throughout 2020 with the Lead Hip Hop Project featuring work of at least nine Amani youth and young professionals in collaboration with a Milwaukee-based hip hop artist.

We will wrap the year with several events around the Rep's annual showing of A Christmas Carol. In addition to providing dozens of tickets to families and community organizations across the city, we'll be satisfying the holiday wish lists of many with the Kohl's A Christmas Carol Shopping Spree – specifically those at COA Goldin Center.

We are grateful for much, but mostly for the opportunity to be a partner with the Amani Neighborhood.

- Submitted by Milwaukee Repertory Theatre

HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Houses in Amani during a Rock the Block event held by neighborhood partners.

Submitted by Dominican Center

“Home is the starting place of love, hope, and dreams.”

- The Legal Aid Society is actively engaged in attending model block meetings and being responsive to related requests. As a result, Legal Aid enlisted pro bono counsel with real estate expertise to craft a landlord template agreement. That agreement is intended to ensure that rents are not increased for 5 years after resources are provided to landlord-owned properties on the pilot block. Legal Aid and pro bono counsel will also assist in convening a meeting of model block landlords to address questions and concerns about the agreement. Legal Aid enlisted another member of its pro bono panel to assist Ezekial CDC with legal questions concerning proper payroll methods for trainees on the project.

And Legal Aid staff are repre-

senting a model block resident to clear up home ownership issues so that city work on her parcel can resume. In these ways, Legal Aid is helping to build capacity of the lead neighborhood organizations, residents and those working in Amani to support and advance goals of the housing strategy and improve conditions on the model block.

Increase residents’ skills in advocacy and securing resources related to family well-being and lifelong learning by connecting residents, youth and partners working in Amani with supports to address loss, stress and trauma and by facilitating advocacy skill development for Amani residents.

Legal Aid’s neighborhood lawyer dedicated to 53206 has opened 36 cases in the second half of 2019 involving matters of housing stability. Of those 36 cases, 10 have been successfully resolved and 5 were dis-

missed due to successful litigation defense strategies. Such advocacy educates neighborhood tenants on their rights both for the matter at hand and going forward. That legal knowledge is power.

Additionally, Legal Aid has assisted the Amani neighborhood with advocacy skill development by conducting legal educational seminars within the community. Those include a July 30, 2019 seminar on residential leases, an August 27, 2019 seminar on pardons and expungements to enhance employability and an October 29, 2019 seminar titled, “Tips & Tricks: Budgets & Money.” The seminars occurred at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission on Center Street in 53206. A “Pardon/Expungement Clinic” is currently being planned for a Saturday morning in December at the Dominican Center.

- Submitted by Legal Aid Society

HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

• On April 23, Amani residents demanded a viewing of the MCTS NEXT Plan at COA Youth and Family Center. They knew that cuts to bus routes in the neighborhood would be made if they didn't view the plan. As they packed COA's NOVA high school library, they complained that these cuts put the neighborhood at a disadvantage.

Residents attended the next meeting on May 8 at the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee Board meeting, where the proposed cuts were again discussed.

Some success: MCTS decided to keep Route 80. Tom Winter, Director of Schedule and Planning for MCTS said that community outreach is what led them to keep the Route 80 at Hopkins Street and Locust Street.

"In the Amani Neighborhood ... we heard loud and clear that that was something that was really valuable and we're going to keep that service," Winter said.

Residents at the meeting said they wanted to be involved in the decisions being made to eliminate bus routes serving their neighborhoods.

"We have a lot of concerned people," said Bro. RiceBey, President of Amani United. "This almost passed my neighborhood

by. There's too much going on with us basically not being at the table."

Richard Diaz of the Dominican Center also spoke about the cuts. "There needs to be a seat on the Milwaukee County Transit Board for riders," said Diaz. "Not only for riders but for residents and for workers of the Union ... this is all unacceptable from the lens of the working people who live and thrive in these neighborhoods."

"Many neighborhoods around Amani did not know about the MCTS Next Plan," he said. "Are people even aware that an impact to daily life is going to be made?"

- Submitted by Amani United

• This year, the Dominican Center teamed up with neighborhood partners to hold 11 community clean ups and service days and two Rock the Block events.

On Saturday, May 18, the community came together in the name of building neighborhood capacity and sharing neighborhood pride.

Rock the Block, a DC and Habitat for Humanity event sponsored by Northwestern Mutual, was attended by about 100 residents and volunteers, as well as Bango, the Milwaukee Bucks'



Submitted by Dominican Center

Barbara Smith, an Amani resident serves food at a Rock the Block event held in May.

mascot, and Mayor Tom Barrett.

In addition, dozens of residents and volunteers came together on Sept. 28 for a fall Rock the Block.

As part of their seven days of service for their 175th anniversary, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee teamed up with the Dominican Center and Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity to clean up debris, pull weeds, plant fall flowers and complete minor home repairs for a block on N. 24th Place, near the Dominican Center.



Harry & Rose Samson Family
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

