



Supporting Community Change

Dominican Center | www.dominican-center.org | October 2018



Thank You TO OUR Generous Donors

The Dominican Center is grateful for the generous support of our donors. Your donations make a difference in the lives of the residents of the Amani neighborhood.

During the past several months, the Dominican Center received grants from the following organizations:

- Anonymous
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
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- The Nonprofit Management Fund
- The Premonstratensian Fathers Augustine Stewardship Fund
- Three Holy Women Christian Women

Amani Residents & Partners Unite to Challenge Liquor Store

Amani residents and community partners have a longstanding history of holding S&S Liquor accountable for the safety problems created within the Amani neighborhood. These united actions resulted in a 14–0 vote by the Milwaukee Common Council against the renewal of the store's liquor license on July 17, 2018.

In 2017, residents and partners organized pop-ups to provide resources and to cultivate positive interactions near the store. Additionally, the business owner provided the Common Council with an agreement based off the existing Amani Good Business Agreement with additional input from residents, partners, and Alderman Khalif J. Rainey.

In 2018, conditions of the agreement went unmet, a homicide took place

outside the store, and the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) conducted a license premise check, which found drugs and out-of-state tobacco products sold illegally. These activities, combined with resident public testimony of feeling unsafe walking past the store and concerns of traffic problems, were heard by the Common Council influencing the unanimous decision to decline the renewal of the store's liquor license. Presently, S&S Liquor store is still operating due to an injunction by the Circuit Court. More information will be available on the Dominican Center website following litigation.

Community partners included Amani United, COA Goldin, 53206 Drug-Free Communities Coalition, Milwaukee Police Department, and Alderman Khalif J. Rainey.

The Milwaukee Common Council voted against renewing the liquor license for S&S Liquor. An injunction by the Circuit Court allows the business to currently operate.



The Dominican Center works with Amani residents and partners to build a better future.



Notes from the Executive Director

Lead poisoning is a serious threat in Milwaukee. The Dominican Center was invited to join the Hunger Task Force in a door-to-door campaign to provide in-person education on lead exposure and the important steps families can take to reduce the risk of lead poisoning. This very comprehensive campaign in two months has successfully educated 800 households on lead in water, paint, soil/environment, and the important role that nutrition plays in a diet protective of lead.

The goal of the Dominican Center is to work directly with Amani residents. The Well Fed Means Less Lead (WFMLL) campaign with the Hunger Task Force gave us the chance to hire four Amani residents to offer resources to Amani residents. The biggest gift for the residents was the opportunity to know neighbors beyond the block where they live and the opportunity to share what they learned with their neighbors. The greatest resource in the Amani community is residents working together to make change happen.



Photo provided by Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service

Amani WFMLL canvasser Marsha Ashley, right, talks with Dorothy Smith about lead prevention in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood.

Thank you for supporting the Dominican Center's efforts to engage residents in leadership roles and provide opportunities for neighbors to get to know neighbors. Go to the Dominican Center website, www.dominican-center.org/lead-education.html, to read more about WFMLL.



Amani Cares, Please Slow Down

"People are slowing down now that they are seeing the [slow down] signs. There is no need to speed with children around," states Theresa Byas, an Amani resident for over five years who put a slow down sign in front of her home and encourages other residents to do the same.

The Innovations in Community Based Crime Reduction (CBCR) Cross Sector Committee, made up of Amani community partners, found that certain intersections throughout Amani had significantly higher concentrations of traffic accidents and speeding. To address these incidents, the committee ordered 200 yard signs printed with "Amani Cares, Please Slow Down" and encouraged the Milwaukee Police Department to provide more targeted policing in these areas.

The slow down signs are placed at and near intersections identified by the CBCR Cross Sector Committee and as requested by neighbors. Additionally, Amani residents who participate in report outs of the CBCR Safety Survey results, a survey used to gauge residents' opinions about safety in their neighborhood and their relationship with law enforcement, also received a yard sign. CBCR supports data-driven, comprehensive, and community-oriented strategies to reduce crime and spur revitalization. Dominican Center is the lead neighborhood organization for the CBCR grant.



Amani resident Theresa Byas encouraged neighbors to slow down by placing this sign in her front yard. Over 200 signs can be found throughout the Amani neighborhood.

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