



# DOMINICAN CENTER: *SUPPORTING COMMUNITY CHANGE*



## MISSION

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

## APPROACH

People's lives are powerfully shaped by the neighborhoods in which they live. The Dominican Center believes Amani residents are experts in their own lives, experiences, needs and motivation. Residents will always find the Dominican Center supportive of their efforts toward positive social change.

## DOMINICAN CENTER RESOURCES

### Adult Education

Resources are available to create individualized learning plans in basic education and prep support for General Education Diploma (GED) and High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED).

### Housing

Resources are available to make Amani homes healthy, safe and code-compliant. This is facilitated with support from the Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP).

### Amani Youth Engagement

Resources are available to promote leadership development and community engagement for those between 8 and 18.

## THE AMANI REVITALIZATION PLAN

### *Priority One: Neighborhood Safety*

- Foster Positive Communication And Relationships Between Neighbors
- Provide Resident And Partner Leadership Development And Training Opportunities
- Encourage Youth Participation
- Foster Civic Engagement In Amani
- Work With Residents And Partners To Address Public Safety Concerns

### *Priority Two: Housing And Economic Development*

- Improve Neighborhood Conditions Related To Housing And Blight
- Enhance Workforce Development And Job Placement Opportunities
- Support Neighborhood Entrepreneurship And Community-Owned Businesses

### *Priority Three: Education And Family Well-Being*

- Deepen Partnerships With Neighborhood Organizations Focused On Education And Family Well-Being
- Connect Residents And Families With The Services And Supports They Need
- Connect Youth With Support To Address Loss, Stress And Trauma

## STATEMENT OF NEED

The question stands: Who is my neighbor? When you can see your future in the face and plight of “the other” you have met your neighbor. The need of the Amani community is two fold: resistance of all racial injustice and bigotry by working for justice and giving support to community “anchor organizations” who believe and work for community sustainability through neighborhood leaders' participation in urban community decision making. The Dominican Center is asking you to join us take in a commitment that matches the long suffering of urban communities. What you see today in urban America did not happen in 3 years. It took a lifetime of neglect, disinvestment and bad policies, and it will take a lifetime of commitments for recovery and revitalization. The Dominican Center needs your help in righting the wrongs of bad policies and disinvestment on the part of governments and the victims' poor decision making, disunity and mistrust.



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### Dominican Center

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## RECOGNITION AND COLLABORATION

The Dominican Center works with residents and partners to ensure that critical resources will serve Amani residents and be located in the Amani neighborhood.

### Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP)

In 2012, the Dominican Center was designated the lead community anchor for the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) BNCP was part of the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative to 1) address poverty and underlying critical and interlocking issues of education, employment, housing, health and safety in distressed neighborhoods; and 2) design and implement a resident-led revitalization plan.

### Innovations in Community Based Crime Reduction (CBCR)

The success of BNCP led to the U.S. Department of Justice 2016 announcement of the Dominican Center as the lead neighborhood organization for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant (BCJI) for Amani. In October of 2017, BCJI was rebranded and became known as Innovations in Community Based Crime Reduction (CBCR). CBCR supports data-driven, comprehensive and community-oriented strategies to reduce crime and spur revitalization. Partners in this grant include the Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Amani United, LISC Milwaukee, and Safe & Sound.

### Metlife Foundation Award

Dominican Center is the recipient of the national MetLife Foundation Award for *Excellence in Civic Engagement*, which includes a \$20,000 grant, for work done in the Amani neighborhood. The award is one of seven nationally recognized awards. The MetLife Award supports community revitalization through continued relationship building between the Milwaukee Police Department and residents, economic development, living wage jobs and education.