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Dominican Center

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DOMINICAN CENTER 2017-2018 Annual Report



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

Dear Friends of the Dominican Center,

Happy New Year! You played a major role in the growth and accomplishments for the Dominican Center in 2018. Thank you.

You will read about many accomplishments in this report, but I want to share a major growth in the Amani community. For two years, Ms. Barbara Smith was the only Amani community member in leadership and no one answered the call to assist. Ms. Smith took her role seriously and got things done. I am grateful for her dedication.

2019 has brought a new surge in Amani resident engagement. All vacancies in the Amani United leadership positions are filled. The newly elected leaders came with energy, ideas for the future of their community and a determination to engage other residents, their neighbors. Their willingness to take leadership roles in their community gives the Dominican Center a chance to truly work in a supportive position and to fulfill our Mission.

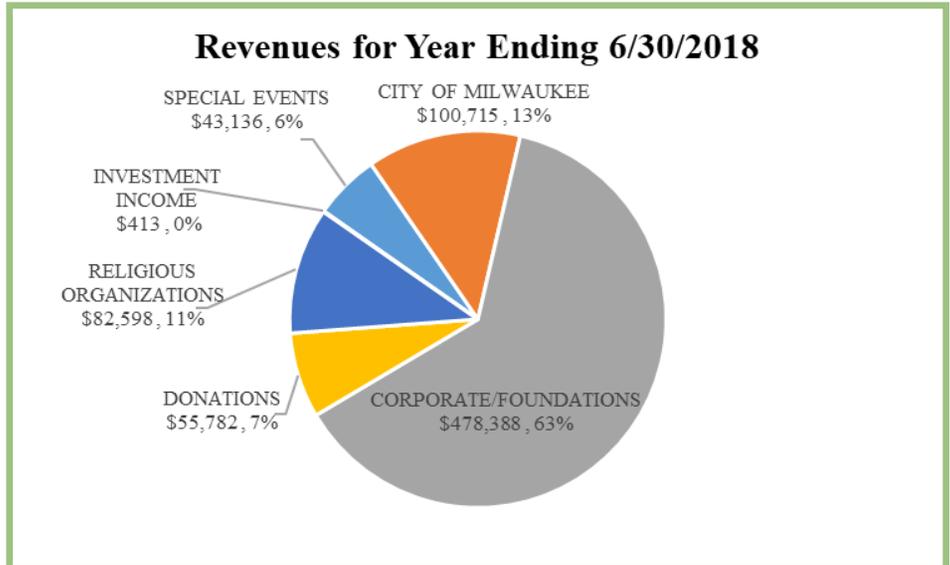
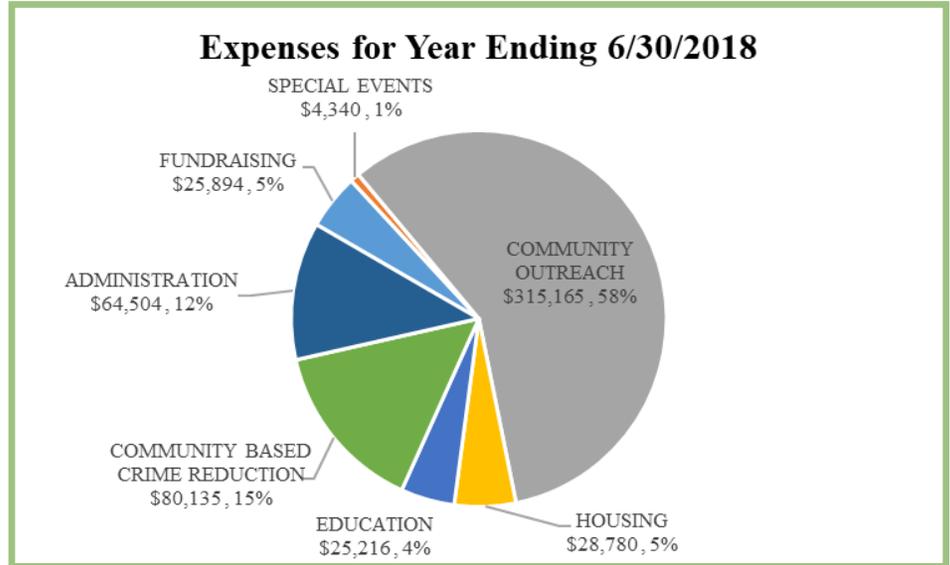
Your dedication to our Mission and your patience is paying off. We are grateful and honored to call you friends of Amani United and the Dominican Center.

Blessings and Peace for you and your families,

Sr. Patricia Rogers, OP
Executive Director



Featured from left to right: Alderman Khalif Rainey, Barbara Smith, and Mayor Tom Barrett.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Our most heartfelt thank you to our donors and supporters who help make our Mission come to life.

For a complete list of donors visit www.dominican-center.org



FAREWELL TO OCTAVIA PARKER



“I have helped nurture the Amani community and I have been happy to see it grow... Now the Lord has something else for me to do and I am called to work with the older population.”

- Octavia Parker

Octavia Parker has worked for the Dominican Center as a Community Organizer since June of 2015. She left her role in January of 2019 to pursue a calling to support older Amani residents. We at Dominican Center are grateful for the impact Octavia has made and will continue to make within the Amani community.

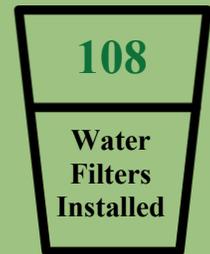
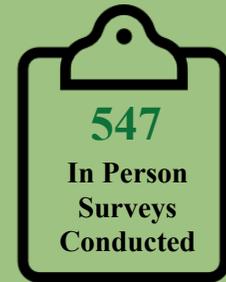
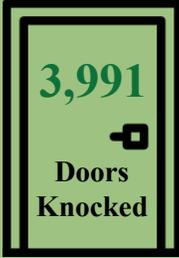
Octavia engaged residents in a variety of roles and lists one her greatest accomplishments as establishing the Amani Youth in Action (AYIA) program, which provides leadership development opportunities to youth between the ages of 8 and 18. Octavia also supported Amani United, the annual Bloom and Groom, and deepened collaborations with local churches.

Octavia states, “I will always be connected with the Dominican Center as an Amani resident” and will support the Amani Youth in Action as a volunteer. Thank you again for your years of service Octavia!

WORKING TOWARDS A LEAD FREE AMANI

In 2018 the Dominican Center joined Hunger Task Force in a door-to-door education campaign in Amani on lead exposure and the steps families can take to reduce the risk of lead poisoning. The campaign resulted in 3991 doors knocked, 888 educational conversations with residents, and 547 surveys conducted to measure the knowledge gained from the interactions.

Overall, there was a 38.9% average increase of knowledge about lead exposure and prevention by the residents surveyed. The survey results also indicated a significant increase in residents being able to identify three symptoms of lead poisoning in children (427%) and three steps to minimize the potential for lead exposure (146%). Given the success of the results, Dominican Center will continue to provide education about lead exposure and prevention in 2019 and distribute water filters to those who need them.



Dominican Center and Hunger Task Force won the Nonprofit Collaboration of the Year award at the 2018 BizTimes Media’s Nonprofit Excellence Awards!

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY CHANGE!



“There aren’t a lot of girls in coding. That is why it is important for me to know about coding so I can have a career in computers.”

- Sharell Washington

Sharrell Washington, age 13, is one of six girls from Dominican Center’s Amani Youth in Action program who are in the Girls Who Code (GWC) program at Marquette University. GWC students meet weekly for 8 months. The program teaches girls computing skills to help close the gender gap in technology. Sharrell will graduate from the program in April of 2019.



**25 Amani Youth
in Action
Participants**



“Staff gave me the motivation and extra push forward that I needed. I wouldn’t have taken this route to college, if I hadn’t started at the Dominican Center first.”

- Beverly Haynes

Beverly Haynes graduated with her General Education Diploma (GED) in February of 2018 with support from the Dominican Center, MATC, and YWCA. She is currently pursuing her Associates degree in Health and Human Services at Bryant & Stratton college and will graduate, June of 2019.



**259 Volunteer
Tutor Hours
Per Month**



“I received support in getting a speed hump petition to my Alderman and I was given slow down signs to put on my block... Dominican Center is a good place to go to learn more about your community.”

- Craig Toliver

Craig Toliver is passionate about safety in Amani. With the support of the Dominican Center he has successfully petitioned for several speed hump installations and distributed slow down signs on his block. He is also active in Amani United’s Safety Team meetings and is looking forward to supporting a neighborhood block watch initiative.



**250 Slow Down
Signs Distributed**



“My porch was falling apart so I was trying to do stuff little by little. Now it looks like a million bucks and I also feel better.”

- Karen Daniels

Karen Daniels called the Dominican Center because her porch was in poor condition. We worked with Karen to submit an application to the City of Milwaukee’s Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) and fully repaired her porch. She is now recommending the program to her friends.



23 Home Repairs