

Dominican Center for Women 2013-2014 Annual Report



Adopt A Class



Arms Around Us



Student and Tutor



Moody Park Dedication Ceremony



Amani Clean-Up



Painting With A Purpose



Stop The Violence



Bloom & Groom

Report from our Executive Director



Sr. Patricia Rogers

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a very special time for family and friends to celebrate and exchange gifts. The Dominican Center for Women's staff and I take this opportunity of celebration to express our deep gratitude for the special gift you give to us with your trust and friendship.

The Christmas season has a way of leading us from giving and receiving to reflecting on what we have done with our lives and what direction we will take in the New Year. 2014 was a very busy year for the Dominican Center. 2014 highlights are Amani United was formed and the Amani United Advisory Council was established; the Center partnered with the City's Painting with Purpose Program and 56 Amani youth volunteers to eliminate blight in the neighborhood; the Adult Education Program enrolled 76 students and 9 students are ready to apply for their GED and two will receive their High School Equivalence Diploma this month.

Through our partnership with the Community Block Grant and Housing Trust Funds, the Center touched the lives and improved living conditions of 16 families in our Housing program. In partnership with Auer Avenue School, we are working to establish a Community School in Amani. The Federal Government Building Neighborhood Capacity Program has been extended through March 2016. We are blessed with cross-sector partners, resident leadership, and a very strong BNCP staff.

Our hopes for 2015 are greater collaboration among organizations working in Amani; a stronger partnership between Milwaukee Police District 5 and the Amani residents; a thriving, beautiful Moody Park for all to enjoy; a stronger Amani United; and a resident-led revitalization plan for Amani. Pray with us for the success of these efforts.

In 2015 the Dominican Center will celebrate a 20-year partnership with the Amani community and with you, our friends. The Dominican Center is recognized in the community as a catalyst for change and is able to report positive results because of your unwavering support and trust. We are grateful for your friendship and for the trust of the Amani community.

When you give to the Annual Fund, you impact many lives in the Amani community directly through the mission and ministry of the Dominican Center for Women. Annual Fund gifts are critical to continuing our mission. Your donation is an investment in the Amani neighborhood and the city of Milwaukee. Please consider making a donation today. You may make an immediate gift by giving online at www.dominican-center.org and check the Donate Now button.

Peace and blessings to all,
Patricia Rogers, OP

Our Mission

The Dominican Center for Women, Inc. partners with Milwaukee's Amani community to maintain and enhance a beautiful, stable, healthy, and safe neighborhood consisting of residents who are community-minded and striving to be meaningfully educated and employed.

Please consider investing in our efforts in neighborhood revitalization.

Be A Tutor

Volunteer tutors help the Dominican Center fulfill its mission. Tutors work on a one-on-one basis with students to achieve their individual educational goals. Help prepare students for their GED tests or hone their reading, math, and computer skills as they seek meaningful employment. Tutors commit to two hours per week during the school year. For more information, please contact Dr. Veronica Rogers at veronica@dominican-center.org or 414-444-9930.

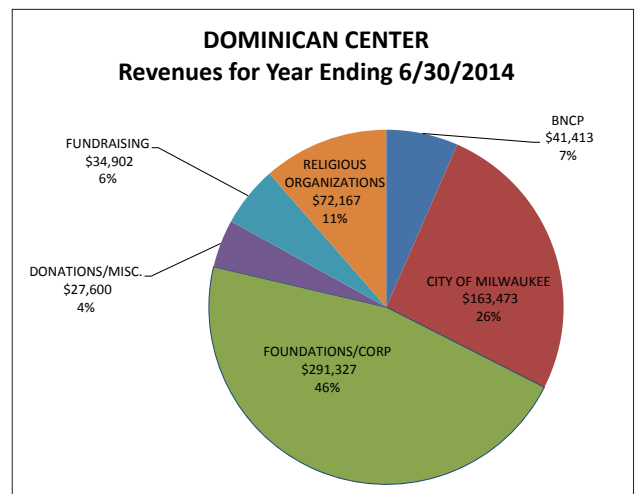
Invest In Neighborhood Capacity

The Dominican Center for Women relies on the generosity of our donors and partners to fulfill its mission to catalyze community-driven change and tailor its efforts to the needs of our Amani neighbors as they work together to solve problems affecting education, employment, housing, health, and safety. Please contact Kathleen Callan Brady at kcbrady1@dominican-center.org.

Share Our Good News

Introduce the Dominican Center to other concerned community members, businesses, and organizations. Please visit our website, www.dominican-center.org and our Facebook page.

The entire staff and Board of Directors is deeply committed to supporting the Dominican Center role as a vital community anchor and resource in Milwaukee's Amani community.



Join the Dominican Center for Women, supporting Amani residents as they build neighborhood capacity, block by block, neighbor by neighbor.



Amani United

Arlene's Story: Motivated Commitment

"He was in the wrong place, at the wrong time," said Arlene Patterson. On October 30, 2006, Arlene's 18-year-old son, Nehemiah, died instantly when a bullet struck him as he sat in the back seat of a car at a local gas station.

Despite personal tragedy, Arlene remains committed to the Amani community. Her motivation is "my son, the Lord, and my will to make things better." In the years since her son's death, Arlene has completed her bachelor's degree at Cardinal Stritch University. She is presently working on her master's degree in management, where she studies how leadership impacts organizational success and creates new opportunities.

Arlene is the president of the resident group Amani United, which was formed this year in response to the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program. Arlene puts her leadership theories into practice as she works with her fellow resident leaders and the Dominican Center to address the critical issues of safety, education, employment, housing, and health. Amani United participated in the Arms Around Us event, a demonstration of solidarity for peace and well being in the community and in safety vigils. The Amani United Housing and Vacant Lots committee holds monthly neighborhood cleanups and recently beautified two vacant lots.

Arlene is especially proud



Arlene Patterson
President of Amani United

of Amani United's and the residents' efforts to exercise their collective voice in the construction of the new Moody Park. Arlene and her fellow residents are working together with Milwaukee County to ensure that the park's new community center will serve residents' needs and that Moody Park and its surrounding area will be a safe place for children and families.

Education

Stanley's Story: Inspired Education

It has been an eventful year for Stanley Guard. Stan arrived at the Dominican Center in Spring 2014 to complete a community service assignment, providing janitorial and painting services to the Dominican Center. Inspired by his daughter's recent high school graduation, Stan registered in the Education Program to complete his GED. Stan explained "I have stopped and started my education many times, but this time is different." Stan maintains a perfect attendance record in the Education Program.

Crediting the welcoming and encouraging atmosphere, Stan is grateful to Sister Patricia and the Dominican Center for urging him to pursue a certificate in lead-based paint renovation from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Stan recently scored a perfect score on the certification exam.

Currently, Stan assists Dominican Center rehab specialist Mr. Wes Landry on rehab and painting jobs in the Amani neighborhood as part of DCW's Housing program. The Dominican



Stanley Guard
Education Program Student

Center continues to help Stan find additional painting projects. Stan looks forward to a productive and happy new year. He notes, "I have my confidence back."

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Dominican Center for Women, Inc.

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