



SHARING THE JOURNEY

Dominican Center for Women, Inc. | www.dominican-center.org | June 2015



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:

- BVM Ministry Fund
- Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Lorraine Albright Flint Fund
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation's LIFT Grant
- Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
- Milwaukee Repertory Theater
- National Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Northwestern Mutual Foundation
- Patrick & Anna M. Cudahy Fund
- PPC Foundation
- Priests of the Sacred Heart
- R.A. Stevens Family Foundation
- Racine Dominican Mission Fund
- School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province Fund
- Springfield Dominicans
- St. Joseph's Congregation
- St. Jude the Apostle Parish
- St. Monica Parish
- St. William Parish
- Walter R. Gustin Trust
- WaterStone Bank
- We Energies Foundation
- Windhover Foundation



April Moore



Rommel Wood

Graduation Celebration

Congratulations to April Moore and Rommel Wood who received their High School Equivalency Diplomas (HSED) on May 21! April and Rommel enrolled in the Dominican Center's adult education program in the fall of 2014 and passed their exams this spring. Another DCW student, Len Perry, is also on track to graduate with his HSED. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Dominican Center education coordinator Katrina Capleton supports students every step of the way, from the first day of class until the day they graduate. "Our role is to break down the walls and make students feel they have a place at the DCW." With each graduation, Ms. Capleton believes, "We are one step closer to accomplishing the goal of bettering our community."

This was a record year for enrollment in the DCW education program with over 90 students enrolled. Twenty-three students participated in the MATC 750 orientation. This is a four hour session at MATC in which students explore various career paths and goals. At the end of the session, students received a certificate attesting to their readiness to take the GED practice test.

DCW celebrated the achievements of all students and volunteers on June 10. Many thanks to students, volunteer tutors, and staff who support each student's education goals. Please consider joining our group of dedicated volunteers in the fall 2015. Classes will begin on September 8. Contact Dr. Veronica Rogers for more information by emailing her at veronica@dominican-center.org.

Notes From the Executive Director

Our Greatest Success Story is You!



Sr. Patricia Rogers

Dear Partners, Donors, and Friends,

As we count the successes for this fiscal year, we acknowledge you as our greatest success story. Your faith in us and your dedication to our mission have enabled us to support the Amani residents in their efforts to plan and work toward social change.

The collective “we can make a change” starts with a strong “I can make a change”. This collective “we can” is our goal. We are able to work toward this goal only because of your understanding of our work and your patience. You understand that over time a community defined by its deficits will forget about its assets and that recovery from that memory loss takes time.

We know that small community victories can build the confidence needed for the “I can make a difference” thinking. Not all victories are getting things to go our way. A victory is also gaining respect, being taken seriously, and taking the opportunity to articulate your position to those in power.

“I can make a difference” in the Amani community has been realized in a few victories: planning and following through with the Moody Park groundbreaking ceremony when Milwaukee County Parks wanted to cancel the event; going through the process to officially be recognized as a Friends of Moody Park organization; meeting with elected officials and Charter School CEOs to let them know that Amani is organized and watching what happens in Amani.

The Dominican Center for Women has always worked for social change. We started by helping women recognize their power and worth. We continued by welcoming families and men as homeowners and as active members in the community. We increased our partner base to decrease silo community activism. We have embraced neighborhood capacity building to bridge the gap between residents, funders, resource organizations, and politicians.

Thank you for the encouragement, support, confidence, and patience needed for social change.

Sincerely,
Sr. Patricia

Student Ambassadors Key to Student Retention

Student ambassadors are a unique feature of Dominican Center’s adult education program. Dr. Veronica Rogers added this component last fall to help enhance student enrollment and retention. Staff select student ambassadors from the general student body based on regular attendance and positive disposition.

Dr. Rogers explains that student ambassadors provide “direct input into the program.” This involvement gives students ownership of their education. In addition, “Students see themselves as mentors,” said Dr. Rogers.

Verna Leatherwood, Stanley Guard, and Saudia Porche are this year’s student ambassadors. They attend class regularly and are enthusiastic about their learning. In addition, Verna, Saudia, and Stanley understand the unique challenges facing adult learners. They are well positioned to encourage and support fellow students. The responsibilities of student ambassadors include positively representing the student body at events, checking-in with students who are absent, and organizing social events.



Stanley Guard, Verna Leatherwood, Saudia Porche (inset photo) are DCW student ambassadors. They are adult learners who have accepted the additional responsibilities of encouraging and supporting fellow students.

Bloom & Groom Flower Sale and Clean-Up Very Successful

The Dominican Center hosted its fourth annual Bloom and Groom event May 30, 2015. Despite the rain, Amani residents were in good spirits.

The day began with Future Milwaukee installing a bulletin board in one of many vacant lots in the neighborhood. Residents will use this to post neighborhood activities and events. Next residents participated in a neighborhood clean-up and plant sale.

The plant sale is sponsored by Lowe's Home Improvement Centers, City of Milwaukee, Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation, and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. A big thanks to Ms. Brenda Hart Richardson and other Amani residents who organized and facilitated the Bloom and Groom plant sale.



Hats Off To The Dominican Center's Spring Banquet!

Bright sunshine, spring flowers, and colorful hats filled the Wisconsin Club on April 12, 2015 as more than 150 friends gathered to celebrate the Dominican Center's 20th anniversary. In addition to the silent auction, heartfelt speakers and the All Saints gospel choir celebrated the DCW's impact in the community.

Two of the Dominican Center's first graduates, Jackie and Archie Williams, shared how their education and the continuing support from the center enriches their lives. Current student Stanley Guard described how the Dominican Center fills his life with light. Many attendees participated in Gifts of Love, which supports

Dominican Center programming.

The success of this celebration and fundraiser is the result of generous and caring friends like you. A special thank you to our sponsors Northwestern Mutual Foundation, BMO Harris, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, LISC-Milwaukee, Associated Bank, and We Energies. Thank you to individual donors Chuck Klawitter and John Kordsmeier for their generous donations. Your thoughtful contributions are most appreciated!

Our sincere thanks to our fundraiser committee members Barbara Tyler, Sister Lourdetta Van

Driel, OSF, Connie Poth, Carolyn Boehmer, Katie Clark, Kathleen Brady, and Sister Patricia.

Our fiscal year comes to an end on June 30. If you wish to contribute to the momentum, please consider an online donation to the Dominican Center for Women at www.dominican-center.org.

Remembering Maureen Tyler

In January of this year, longtime friend and DCW supporter Maureen Tyler passed away. Maureen had been on the spring fundraiser committee for many years.

Dominican Center for Women, Inc.

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Moody Park Opening Soon!

Amani residents look forward to Moody Park's grand opening on August 20.

Ms. Brenda Giles, chair of Friends of Moody Park, reports that the transformation of Moody Park is almost complete. Area home owners participate in block watch trainings to ensure this vibrant community space can be enjoyed by children and families.

Ms. Giles adds, "The new park will offer programming and activities to keep the park safe." Friends of Moody Park is hosting a concert in Moody Park on the 20th of August from 6:30–8:30 p.m.

