

Dominican Center
2470 West Locust Street
Milwaukee, WI 53206



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Celebrating the First Anniversary of the New Moody Park!

August marks the one-year anniversary of the reopening of Moody Park. This past year community members enjoyed using the basketball hoops, sprinting through the splash pad, the walking track, and attending park events.

On August 26, over 100 community members gathered for the one-year park anniversary. The celebration provided music featuring Christopher's Project and art activities supplied by Arts Working in Education.

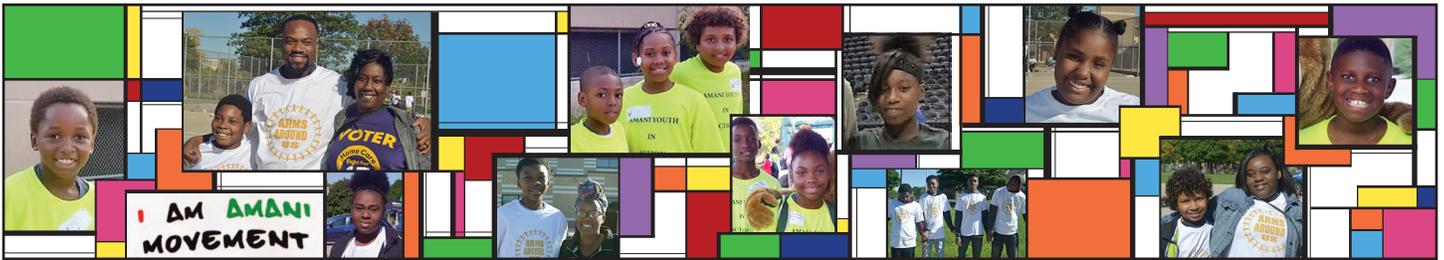
Summer programming in Moody Park included PeppNation's sports program, a mobile food pantry by Molina Healthcare, resident community gardening and a gardening class, chess games, the Build a Boxcar event, and the Friends of Moody Park meetings.

Thank you to all the community partners who supported these activities and events!

Interested in getting involved? Become a member of Friends of Moody Park. Contact Pepper Ray at pray.bncp@gmail.com or call her at 414-444-9930.



Dominican Center Board Of Directors: Chad Swalheim, Chair; Mary Howard Johnstone, OP, Secretary-Treasurer; Linda Bedford; Brandon Culpepper; Pastor Willie Davis; Andre Goode; Arlene Patterson; Reverend Mary Martha Kannass, Emeritus Director; Patricia Rogers, OP, Ex Officio



Making Change Happen

Dominican Center | www.dominican-center.org | November 2016

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:

- Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
- Glendale Woman's Club
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation
- Hephatha Lutheran Church
- Herb Kohl Philanthropies
- National Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Northwestern Mutual Foundation
- Park Bank Foundation
- Priests of the Sacred Heart Provincialate Offices
- School Sisters of Notre Dame - Central Pacific Region
- Sinsinawa Dominicans Convent of the Holy Paraclete
- Sinsinawa Dominicans Peace & Justice
- St. Eugene Congregation
- St. James Parish
- St. John Vianney Parish
- St. Joseph Congregation
- St. Matthew's Parish
- St. Sebastian Congregation
- St. William Parish
- R.A. Stevens Foundation
- The Windhover Foundation
- Waterstone Bank Foundation
- We Energies Foundation
- Zilber Family Foundation

Amani Youth in Action

“One block at a time” is community organizer Octavia Parker’s motto. This summer, Octavia recruited over 50 Amani youth, ages 8–18, as part of the first cohort of Amani Youth in Action to participate in weekly block-by-block cleanups and tend the Amani community gardens.

One student said, “I am proud I made a difference in my community by helping keep it clean.” The Amani Youth in Action activities promote community engagement and leadership development.

Amani Youth in Action and the Dominican Center are very appreciative of the Milwaukee Bucks’ special invitation to participate in two wonderful opportunities that recognized Amani youth summer successes. 59 members attended the Bucks’ invitation to Jam Master Jay’s Back to School Bash at Schlitz Park on August 29. The event included live entertainment by mascot Bango, the Hoop Troop, and the Rim Rockers. Thanks to the Bucks, Amani Youth in Action started the school year with a Bucks backpack, a haircut or hairstyle, and brand new Adidas shoes.

The Milwaukee Bucks Shoot Down Cancer event on September 19 was attended by 35 members at the BMO Harris Bradley Center. The Bucks donated \$5 for each free throw to fight cancer. Amani youth also participated in educational events sponsored by co-hosts American Cancer Society and Froedtert Hospital. The highlight of the event for the Amani youth was meeting

Bucks Coach Jason Kidd and Bucks’ legendary All Star Bob Lanier.

Amani Youth in Action were among 1000 youth invited by Mayor Barrett to attend the Brewers vs. Atlanta Braves baseball game on August 11. For many it was their first trip to Miller Park.

Fall plans for the Amani Youth in Action include continuing with the cleanups, community volunteer opportunities and leadership training.

Octavia reported, “I am so proud of our youth and their contributions to building capacity in the Amani neighborhood.” Contact Octavia at octavia.bncp@gmail.com or 414-444-9930 for more information about the Amani Youth in Action Group.



Notes from the Executive Director

Sr. Patricia Rogers



Dear Dominican Center Supporters,

A beautiful, safe, and sustainable Amani community is the goal and the work the Dominican Center has agreed to continue in partnership with Amani residents, neighborhood partners, Milwaukee Police, the City and funders after the Federal Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) ended, September 30, 2016. We are in the process of completing the organizing and compiling of the data collected to support the residents' vision for a better future. The residents will review the Amani Revitalization Plan draft for final approval and the finished product will go to print and be distributed at the Annual Amani "Report Out" event in December 2016.

On September 25, 2016, the announcement of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to Milwaukee for the Amani community was made. The Dominican Center is the anchor organization named in the grant. The timing of the Byrne grant is perfect. The Federal Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) grant helped Amani residents determine ways to identify and build neighborhood capacities and the Byrne grant will support us in building on the relationships we established with the Amani District 5 police officers through the BNCP grant.

Thank you for your support over the years and we count on your prayers and generosity as we work hand-in-hand with the residents, funders, neighborhood partners and the police to make the Amani residents' vision for a better future a reality.

Peace,
Sr. Patricia

Meet The Dominican Center's Newest Board Members!

Andre Good



The Dominican Center welcomes Andre back to the Amani neighborhood. Vice President of Operations and Programs at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, Andre previously spent five years at the COA Youth and Family Centers, where he developed a strong connection with the Amani Community.

"I have so much love and pride for the Amani community and it makes me want to do whatever I can to empower the neighborhood." Andre's commitment includes ensuring that the Amani revitalization is resident-led and supporting efforts to sustain the Dominican Center.

Dennis Scherr



Dennis is the Manager of Design Services for Zilber Property Group and programs and designs a wide range of commercial spaces, including office, retail, and warehouse, for tenants. He chairs the city of Wauwatosa Design Review Board that reviews commercial and residential projects.

experience to support more home/other improvements in the Amani neighborhood. He stated, "I'm looking forward to working with the Amani community and beyond."

Dennis especially enjoys summer with landscaping projects and building things for family and friends. Dennis and his wife also serve on the management team for Wauwatosa's Special Olympics.

As a board member for Dominican Center, Dennis hopes to use his skills and

Brandon Culpepper



Brandon is passionate about the Amani neighborhood because it is where he grew up. "I want to support community members in getting a fresh start. Amani needs more exposure to jobs, leaders, and training. This has to be a collective effort and can't be done with just one person or organization".

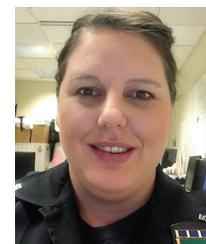
A graduate of the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Brandon is the founder and CEO of PeppNation, which provides athletic and academic services to local students ages 7-18. Brandon believes it is important to give back to the community he grew up by engaging youth in the Amani neighborhood.

Meet the Community Liaison in District 5

"Building trust happens through interaction," said Lori Lammers, Community Liaison Police Officer in District 5. Born in Milwaukee, Officer Lori attended Milwaukee Public Schools. She has been a police officer for ten years, four and a half of those as a Community

Liaison Officer and is excited to see growth in the involvement of Amani community members. Her goal is to deepen relationships as she listens to feedback and concerns from community members and attends many meetings with Amani residents.

Officer Lammers can be reached at 414-935-7258 or llamme@milwaukee.gov.



Officer
Lori
Lammers



Education Program News

The Dominican Center Adult Education classes started in September 2016 for those pursuing a GED or HSED.



Monique Robinson Student Reflection

"I look forward to coming to class and am starting to feel really good about myself. No matter what pace or level you are at, if you don't try, you'll never know."

Monique's motto is "learn more, do better".

Keep up the good work, Monique!



Gwendolyn Coates Student Reflection

"I push myself to go to class, because I'm doing this to better myself, so I can be an example for my kids. I'm going to move forward."

Congratulations on your accomplishments, Gwendolyn!



Barbara Parker-Wells

Meet Our New Education Coordinator

The Dominican Center welcomes Barbara Parker-Wells as our new Education Coordinator

"Education opens doors and is a way to explore the world," said Barbara, who uses her own story to fuel her passion for education. She was a single mother of three when she received her GED at age 24.

"I discovered a passion for learning," she stated. Barbara graduated magna cum laude with a Master's degree in Education Leadership from Concordia University and has been a teacher for over 20 years.

We need volunteers passionate about education and willing to provide one-on-one tutoring.

Does this sound like you?

A commitment of at least two hours each week, from 9-11:30 a.m., is required. Call 414-444-9930 for more information.

In Remembrance of Nicole Trotter-Lester

We are saddened by the passing of Nicole Lester on October 2, 2016 and send our deepest sympathies to her friends and family.

Nicole was a member of the Dominican Center family for over 10 years. Her generosity and big heart made an impact on countless lives in Milwaukee. May she rest in peace.

