

## Dominican Center for Women

2470 West Locust Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53206



Nonprofit  
Organization  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Milwaukee, WI

# Dominican Center Releases New Logo and 2017 Neighborhood Revitalization Plan

For the first time in 22 years, the Dominican Center proudly unveils its new logo. Our new logo is forward-looking and reflective of the Dominican Center's work with Amani residents and partners to build a better future in Milwaukee and the Amani community.

The new logo's streamlined and clean lines reflect the Dominican Center's look to the future and the hues of green are associated with growth, renewal, and revitalization. The newer logo no longer includes "for women" on it because the Dominican Center's resources and support are inclusive of all women, men, and families living in the Amani neighborhood. The timing of the logo coincides with the recently released 2017 Amani Revitalization Plan.

The Amani Neighborhood Revitalization Plan provides a resident-informed path to an improved quality of life. Amani resident input was gathered through community input sessions, monthly neighborhood meetings, door-to-door canvassing, and an array of neighborhood activities. The goals

of the Revitalization Plan include increasing collective efficacy and community peace, improving Amani housing conditions, stimulating Amani economic development, and supporting family well-being. The Revitalization Plan identifies actions to help realize the Amani vision for future investment and development and can be found in full on the Dominican Center's website, [www.dominican-center.org/build-amanis-capacity](http://www.dominican-center.org/build-amanis-capacity). We look forward to hearing your thoughts and feedback.





# Supporting Community Change

Dominican Center | [www.dominican-center.org](http://www.dominican-center.org) | September 2017



## 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:

- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.
- Brightspark Travel, Inc.
- Glendale Woman's Club
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc.
- Green Bay Packers Foundation
- Herb Kohl Philanthropies, Inc.
- Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, Inc.
- Jewish Women's Endowment Fund
- Milwaukee LISC
- Molina Healthcare, Inc.
- Motor Castings Foundation, Inc.
- Northwestern Mutual Foundation
- Park Bank Foundation
- Patrick & Anna M. Cudahy Fund
- Premonstratensian Fathers Augustine Stewardship Fund
- Priests of the Sacred Heart
- R. A. Stevens Family Foundation
- School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Fund
- Sisters of Charity of Blessed Virgin Mary Ministry Fund
- The Windhover Foundation
- WaterStone Bank Foundation
- We Energies Foundation
- Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation, Inc.
- Zilber Family Charitable Foundation

## Amani Youth Visit Washington, D.C.!



The generosity of Senator Herb Kohl and Herb Kohl Philanthropies, Inc. allowed the Dominican Center to organize a trip to Washington, D.C. for 40 Amani youth and eight chaperones on June 21–25. This was a special trip for Amani Youth in Action. Their chaperones came from Amani churches, including Village Ministries, Bethesda Baptist Church, and Hephatha Lutheran Church. For many, this was their first trip outside of Milwaukee.

On the first day in Washington, D.C. the Amani youth stood at the Lincoln Memorial, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Then on the last day of their trip, they viewed the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. Additional outstanding tour highlights included the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the U.S. Capitol, the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, the United States Holocaust Museum, and Howard University.

After visiting with Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin, Jaylin Turner remarked, “I think I might want to be a Senator.” The group not only talked with Senator Baldwin, but also stopped by Representative Gwen Moore’s office. Participants agreed that this trip inspired everyone to get more engaged civically and to explore their family history.



## Notes from the Executive Director

Sr. Patricia Rogers



Dear Friends and Donors,

When was the last time you recalled/reflected on the URBAN history of our United States of America? You know the saying, “Those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.”  
-Edmund Burke

What is so important about the history of America’s Urban Communities? Did you ever wonder how they or reservations were created and why they continue to exist?

The Dominican Center has taken a pledge to stop sharing the Amani community’s statistics without first discussing the policies that helped to create, shape and maintain the existence of Urban Communities. The history is not hard to find, just follow the policies that were in place when they were created and follow the policies that hold them in place.

The Dominican Center is joining others who are working to change the URBAN Community narrative. Please join us by not reciting Urban Statistics, such as percent living in poverty, number incarcerated, number of failing schools, etc. without talking about the polices that created and continue to harm URBAN Communities today.

Thank you for your support and generosity,

Sr. Patricia

## Meet DC’s Newest Board Members!

### Barbara Smith



“I want to be a positive influence for our young people.”

Barbara Smith

Barbara is president of Amani United and an Amani resident. She can be found supporting Providence Baptist Church, working on the Planning Committee for the Police Resident Listening Circles, or engaging youth with the International Group at Northwest Opportunities Vocational Academy (NOVA). Barbara also regularly attends Amani Safety Team meetings.

When asked about her role as a new board member, Barbara said that she will continue “to be a voice for Amani around safety and affordable housing”. She hopes to provide structure and support for the vision of the Amani Community.

During her free time, Barbara enjoys attending family functions and playing card games.

### Connie Kordsmeier



“Think globally, act locally.”

Connie Kordsmeier

Connie, a former teacher, is passionate about issues involving children: access to education, health, and safety. She is actively engaged with Alex’s Lemonade Stand for Childhood Cancer, Safe and Sound, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

“Dominican Center holds the neighborhood together and supports collaboration,” said Connie.

She is a familiar face at Amani United meetings and events and serves as chairman of the DC Special Events and Fundraising committee. When Connie isn’t volunteering, she can be found traveling, reading, or having fun with her grandchildren.

### Sarah Schneider



“I want to be a bridge or a connector.”

Sarah Schneider

Sarah is the Vice President – New Business at Northwestern Mutual where she underwrites and issues insurance products.

She is passionate about social justice and race relations in Milwaukee, serves as the executive sponsor of Northwestern Mutual’s African American Employee Resource Group (AAERG), and is a member of the NML Corporate Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Sarah has already introduced members of the AAERG to the Dominican Center. As a board member, Sarah contributes her expertise in finance, human resources, and mentorship. Sarah also enjoys yoga, exercise, and spending time with her family.



# Adult Education Program Updates

“Only compete with yourself and make sure you’re better next year,” said Education Coordinator Barbara Wells to her students at the End of the School Year celebration on June 8.

The celebration recognized the students’ progress in the Adult Education Program in the areas of reading, writing, math, and computer skills and thanked the tutors for volunteering their time. Students also thanked their tutors by presenting a rose to each tutor and reading their favorite poetry selections.

Tutors and staff provided gifts to the students in the form of a “Summer Survival Kit” to encourage students to continue their studies and to explore Milwaukee. Items in the kits included word puzzles, calculators, adult coloring books, markers, healthy snacks, and a listing of free summer happenings throughout Milwaukee

It’s never too late to register. Adult education classes will start on September 11. Volunteers passionate about education are encouraged to tutor adult students. A commitment of at least two hours each week, from 9–11:30 a.m., is required. Call 414-444-9930 for more information.



## Meet the Amani Byrne (BCJI) Coordinator!

“My relationships with community members drives my work,” said Britney Roberson, the Amani Byrne Coordinator at Dominican Center.



Britney Roberson

Britney supports the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) program in the Amani neighborhood. BCJI was designed to help local communities develop place-based, community-oriented strategies that would increase neighborhood participation, improve neighborhood relations, reduce crime, and increase neighborhood safety.

This is only the second time that the BCJI program has been awarded in the City of Milwaukee. This three-year program consists of one year of planning and two years of program implementation. Amani BCJI boundaries cover Center Street to the south, Keefe Avenue to the north, Teutonia to the east, and 31<sup>st</sup> Street to the west.

Britney was born and raised in Milwaukee. A graduate of Mount Mary University with a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice and Peace Building, Britney has a special interest in housing and safety. She has over five years of community organizing experience from her previous position as the BCJI Public Safety Coordinator for Washington Park Partners. In her free time, Britney enjoys traveling and exploring new places to eat.

Because BCJI offers residents numerous participation opportunities, Britney is looking forward to building relationships with Amani residents and partners. She can be reached by phone at (414) 444-9930 or by e-mail at [Britney@dominican-center.org](mailto:Britney@dominican-center.org).

## Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to Jamona Denise Irving for receiving her High School Equivalency Diploma and to Michael Adams for receiving his General Education Diploma, both in May 2017. Best wishes to both in your future endeavors!

## In Remembrance of Verna Leatherwood



We are deeply saddened by the passing of Verna Leatherwood and extend our sympathies to her family and friends.

Verna was part of the Dominican Center family for over three years. She participated in the education program and was an inspiration to all.

Verna was to have received her High School Equivalency Diploma from Milwaukee Area Technical College on June 7, 2017, but suffered a heart attack shortly before graduation and died on June 17, 2017. We will remember her for her nurturing and caring personality. May she rest in peace.