

Dominican Center for Women, Inc.

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SHARING THE JOURNEY

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A FOND FAREWELL

The Dominican Center bids a fond farewell to three people who are true Servant Leaders

Sister Ann Halloran, OP, co-founder, and retired Executive Director is relocating to the Mound in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, to continue her ministry. Following her retirement as Executive Director in 2010, Sister Ann returned to the Dominican Center as a volunteer with a special emphasis on curriculum design, reading for meaning, and student enrichment activities. Thank you for being a mentor and friend to the Dominican Center and our neighbors in the Amani neighborhood. You will be missed!



Sister Ann Halloran

Sister Sue Felice, OSF Director of the Education Program, is retiring after 11 years at the Dominican Center. In addition to her education duties, Sister Sue worked with the community gardens and the volunteer school and youth groups in the neighborhood. We will continue to see Sister Sue this summer in the gardens. Sister Sue plans to pursue a lifelong dream of working with preschool children. You are one in a million! We wish you continued success.

Nicole Lester, the Resource Coordinator and Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP) Coordinator, is relocating to West Memphis, Arkansas, after more than 8 years at the Dominican Center. Nicole has been the ultimate housing



Nicole Lester and Sister Sue Felice

advocate for residents of the Amani neighborhood, ensuring that housing rehab improvements were performed in a timely manner and completed with quality workmanship. Nicole and her husband, Adrian, ministers in the World Outreach Church, are returning to their Arkansas roots to start a new rural outreach ministry. We will miss her and wish her every success.

Dominican Center For Women, Inc. Board Of Directors: Pastor Willie Davis, Jr.; J. Miles Goodwin, Esq.; Mary Howard Johnstone, OP; Rev. Mary Martha Kannass; Charles Klawitter; Chad Swalheim; Ivorena V. Taylor; Patricia Rogers, OP Ex Officio

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:

- Greater Milwaukee Foundation
- Erica P. John Fund
- Northwestern Mutual Foundation
- Park Bank Foundation
- R.A. Stevens Foundation
- St. Eugene Congregation
- St. Monica's Parish
- School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Region Fund
- WaterStone Bank Foundation
- WE Energies Foundation



Amani teens volunteer two nights a week to paint decorative wood panels that will be installed on city-owned vacant homes. Teens interested in participating in the on-going project can contact Anwar Floyd-Pruit at Anwarfp@gmail.com or 414-324-7318.

PAINTING WITH PURPOSE

The Painting with Purpose project was launched in the Amani neighborhood this spring. According to Vanessa Llanas, the Community Outreach Liaison at the Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC), this program "is focused on revitalizing the Amani community by installing decorative panels on city-owned vacant homes."

Youth volunteers will create the decorative panels as

"alternative board-ups" for 40 city-owned vacant homes. Volunteer youth meet at the Dominican Center two evenings a week to paint boards and receive soft skills training. They will also participate in community meetings and clean-ups.

This project is funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the City of Milwaukee NIDC and is also supported by the Cities of Service Impact Volunteer Fund.



Notes From The Executive Director



Sr. Patricia Rogers

The past 12 months have been exciting and challenging. Many great partnerships have been formed and many residents engaged. The challenge has been to not be distracted by the many issues facing the Amani Community and stay focused on building neighborhood capacity so that issues can be addressed in partnership with other organizations, the City of Milwaukee, and elected officials with resident leadership.

I am privileged to announce and witness the excitement of the residents as they embark on new adventures and take on leadership roles. I look forward to the residents sharing information with you about the Resident Development Training Program and the work of the newly formed Safety and Friends of Mood Park committees.

Building neighborhood capacity means the Amani residents and organizations are working together to gain the skills and resources needed to create and implement a resident-led plan to revitalize the community. Amani is in the building capacity process because of the work of the residents in partnership with the Dominican Center, partner organizations, and your generosity. Each week we see a stronger Amani community and residents gaining more and more pride in their community. Thank you for your partnership.

Sr. Patricia



Alderman Willie Wade is pictured, left to right, with Brenda Hart-Richardson, Katherine Turner, Augustine Harper, Kelly O'Neill (Safe and Sound), and Nicole Lester (Dominican Center). This year's successful Bloom and Groom brought the natural beauty of flowers to our neighborhood.

2014 Bloom and Groom

This year's annual Bloom and Groom, sponsored by the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program and the Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation and supported by Painting With Purpose, was a great success.

After a long and brutal winter and a cold spring, the sun shone brightly on Saturday, May 31. Thank you to Nicole Lester, Patricia Ott, and Talibah Mateen for organizing the Bloom and Groom plant sale and to Sister Sue Felice for organizing lunch. Thank you also to all of our participating Amani neighbors, Vanessa Llanas, and Painting with Purpose Project Coordinator Anwar Floyd-Pruitt and his youth volunteers.



Members of the Amani neighborhood, including 25 youth, joined in a neighborhood clean-up as part of the Bloom and Groom activities.



Sister Dorothy Victor, OP, a tutor at the Dominican Center, visits with two students, Denise Scott (left) and Minnie Dyson (right), at the Spring Event.

Adult Education News

More than 70 people registered for the Dominican Center Education Program this year as it continued to operate at maximum capacity. We are extremely grateful for the dedication of our 25 volunteer tutors who provide one-on-one support for our students. Six Dominican Center students and their tutors met the challenge of completing the old GED test prior to December 13, 2013. Congratulations also to DCW's HSED graduate Doris Gant on making

the dean's list at MATC this year.

The new GED testing procedure became effective January 1, 2014. The new GED is more rigorous because it is geared toward post secondary education and is completely computerized. Consequently there is a greater need for more tutors and keyboard instruction. If you would like to volunteer as a tutor, please contact Veronica Rogers at 444-9930.

Amani Spring Neighborhood Cleanup

Thank you to Antonio Avery, Adam Carr, Lelitz Garcia, and Megan O'Connor from Future Milwaukee. These four members of Marquette University's Future Milwaukee Program worked with the Dominican Center and its Building Neighborhood Capacity Program to organize the first spring neighborhood cleanup on April 26. More than 75 people targeted the area between 21st Street and 24th Place and collected more than 3000 pounds of trash. "I Am Amani" and "Keep Amani Clean" yard signs were distributed to participating neighbors. Neighborhood

groups are planning to do regular cleanups throughout the summer in the area adjacent to the park.

Partners and participating groups included Amani United, Dominican Center for Women, COA Goldin Center, Safe & Sound, Painting with Purpose, Milwaukee Police District 5, Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee, Vincent High School track team, Future Milwaukee, ArtWorks, Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation, and the City of Milwaukee.

The 2014 Annual "One Voice" Spring Brunch

More than 150 people attended a festive Sunday Brunch at the Wisconsin Club on April 13. The success of this fundraiser is the result of generous and caring friends like all of you. A special thank you to our sponsors Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, and LISC-Milwaukee. Your generosity is most appreciated!

Our sincere thanks to our co-chairs, Barbara and Maureen Tyler, and fundraiser committee members Sister Lourdetta Van Driel, OSF, Connie Poth, Kelly Conway, Judy Schwerm, Nicole Lester, Carolyn Boehmer, and Sister Sue Felice, OSF.

\$10,000 CHALLENGE!

Thank you to the R.A. Stevens Foundation, which awarded the Dominican Center a Challenge Grant of \$10,000 to be matched by donors at our Annual "One Voice" Brunch on April 13. We were so pleased that Carolyn Scott from the R. A. Stevens Foundation was able to attend this year's brunch. Thank you to our guests and donors for meeting the challenge! Your gifts for this year will have an even greater impact due to the generosity of the R.A. Stevens Foundation.

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.