

Fun-Filled Camping for Gill Family Resource Center Participants

By Lisa Petzak

Program Coordinator—COA Ethel Nutis Gill Family Resource Centers

In May, families from the Gill Family Resource Center attended COA's Camp Helen Brachman in the north woods of Wisconsin. Families enjoyed a fun, free camping trip by participating in family drop-in time or attending parenting classes offered by the Family Center. When asked what she liked most about camp, Genette Ford, the mother of 2 year old Lamariona, responded, "It gave Mari and me a chance to bond through art, dancing, and outdoor activities. We do not get out of the city much so I really enjoyed the peaceful view of the lake and time to bond with other families." Other family activities included bike riding, a nature hike, building sand castles, and fishing. Families are already excited for the next camping trip in August! If interested, stop by the Gill Family Center inside of COA's Goldin Center for more information.



Community Happenings

All events take place at the COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh Street unless otherwise noted *in italics*

June

Saturday, June 6: Amani Community Planning Session, 10:30 AM—2:30 PM, *Center Street Library*

Monday, June 8—Friday, June 12: No Youth Programming at COA

Friday, June 12: Kickoff to Summer Community Fun Night, 5:00 PM—7:00 PM

Saturday, June 13: Bi-weekly Amani Clean-up

Monday, June 15: Last Day of School for MPS

Thursday, June 18: Friends of Moody Park Meeting, 5:00 PM

Monday, June 22: Goldin Summer Day Camp Begins

Tuesday, June 23: Amani United Meeting, 4:30 PM—6:00 PM

Friday, June 26: Amani Health Fair, 11:00 AM—2:00 PM

(For more information contact Tynetta Oliver, 263-8383)

July

Friday, July 3: COA Goldin closed in Observance of Independence Day Friday July 3rd

Saturday, July 11: Bi-weekly Amani Clean-up

Thursday, July 16: Friends of Moody Park Meeting, 5:00 PM

Saturday, July 25: Bi-weekly Amani Clean-up

Tuesday, July 28: Amani United Meeting, 4:30 PM—6:00 PM

August

Friday, August 11—Sunday, August 16: *Family Camp at Camp Helen Brachman*

(For more information contact Lisa Petzak, 449-1757)

Thursday, August 20: Moody Park Concert Event, Time TBA, *Moody Park*

Friday, August 21: Back to School Community Fun Night, 4:00 PM—7:00 PM

Tuesday, August 25: Amani United Meeting, 4:30 PM—6:00 PM

Thursday, August 27: Friends of Moody Park Meeting, 5:00 PM

Gill Family Resource Center (GFRC) located at COA Goldin

Family Drop-In

Wednesday, Thursday 12:00 PM-2:00 PM; Friday 11:30 AM—1:30 PM

The GFRC will be opening for a fourth day this summer—to be determined at a later date.

Welcome Baby (Starting June 3rd)

Wednesday 10:30 AM -12 PM

The Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee conducts free legal clinics at the COA Goldin Center every Tuesday from 4:00 PM—6:00 PM. Legal Aid can help with evictions and other landlord-tenant issues, foreclosures, municipal tickets, social security and disability appeals, consumer law problems, tax disputes, estate plans, and bankruptcy. Legal Aid does not help with criminal or child custody and visitation cases. To make an appointment, please call the Goldin Center at 499-1757. For more information, please visit www.lasmilwaukee.com or call (414) 727-5300.

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Amani United

Issue 7: June 2015

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Burke Early Education Center Breaks Ground in Amani

By Angela Green

Goldin Center Operations Manager —COA Youth & Family Centers



On Friday, April 17, COA Youth & Family Centers broke ground on its new Burke Early Education Center. The day was warm and sunny, and residents and supporters turned out to learn more about this exciting opportunity for children in the Amani Neighborhood.

Representatives from the Burke Foundation participated in the event and were the first to dig shovels into the ground. During the ceremony, Foundation Trustee Kathy Burke Seiberlich said, "My dad, Dick Burke, believed in creating opportunities for children to learn and grow. He would be proud that this center is being built."

Ashley Harrell, COA's Burke Early Education Center Director, also addressed the crowd, saying, "I know that all of us are united in a strong belief that children are the future of Milwaukee. We believe that all children have the right to a strong and healthy start beginning at birth. That all children deserve early learning opportunities that prepare them for rigorous academic experiences as they grow. That all children deserve a community of caring adults who will help them dream big and achieve their goals. That is what this center will be for children in the Amani Community."

The COA Burke Early Education Center is designed to provide quality child care for children six weeks old through school age. The Center is anticipated to open in August of 2015. Participants will have access to a daily meal program, Early Head Start, low teacher-to-student ratios, and an interactive curriculum that prepares children to enter school. We encourage interested parents to begin the enrollment process now. Contact Ashley Harrell, COA's Burke Early Education Center Director at 414-449-1757 ext. 130. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins will be accepted.

If you enroll your child(ren) between June 1 and August 31, 2015, the \$5 registration fee will be waived. There will be informational sessions for interested families on Monday, June 22, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m.

There will also be an employment information session on Thursday, June 18, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Learn about career opportunities with COA Youth & Family Centers.



Kathy Burke Seiberlich and Deanna Singh of the Burke Foundation are the first to break ground on the new COA Burke Early Education Center.

Amani United News Contributing Board

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COA Participant Gets 1st Place at Science Fair

By Denzel Sloan

Youth Participant—COA Youth & Family Centers

Lachante Sandford is one inspiring child for her age. An 11-year-old Amani resident, this sixth grader has just competed in Ohio at a science fair that draws participants from across the Midwest. She attends the Milwaukee Math and Science Academy. Now, if you ask me, she was built for that school! She enjoys it quite a lot. This was her first time travelling to Ohio.

Her project tested "levels of lead in water from new and old buildings." After middle school is over, she plans to attend Milwaukee High School of the Arts to become a singer. Her future plans and hobbies fall around her becoming a famous singer—look out Alicia Keys, here comes Lachante! She has attended the COA Goldin Center since March of 2014 alongside her sister Ashanti. She has a wonderful uplifting spirit and a smile just as great as a baby's laughter.

Student Group Attends "Selma"

By Pepper Ray

Amani BNCP Coordinator—Dominican Center for Women

Amani United partnered with Auer Avenue School and Nova High School to take students to see the movie *Selma* on February 5, 2015. A total of 54 students, parents, and residents from the community attended a special screening of the Martin Luther King Jr. civil rights film that reenacts the historical march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

In efforts to make the students more knowledgeable about African American history, they were asked to write down their reactions to the film. These papers were posted onto bulletin boards within the schools. Here are some of the remarks that were given by Nova students after seeing the movie:

"Without the fight we wouldn't have what we have now."

"If it wasn't for that March and the struggle through the beatings, murders and arrests, we black people wouldn't even be allowed to think of voting. I didn't know our people suffered so much, since I wasn't actually there to witness it—this movie taught me never fear and to stand up for justice no matter the risks."

"People back in the day worked hard and sacrificed their lives for us to have the rights we have today."

Amani United and BNCP would like to thank Richard Lewis and his wife for the generous initiative that started the funding campaign for Milwaukee students to see *Selma*. We also would like to thank Vincent Lyles of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee and Marcus Cinemas that helped to coordinate this effort. Everyone was very excited about the *Selma* movie. This is the first of many initiatives that we plan on bringing to the Amani community and our kids.



Amani Resident Experience Surveys will be administered throughout the community May-June. All completed surveys will be entered into a gift card raffle and winners will be announced at the June 23 Amani United Meeting. Questions may be directed to Pepper Ray, (414) 444-9930 or pray.bncp@gmail.com.

Someone You Should Know: Arlene Patterson

By Joe Trevino

Director of Programs—COA Youth & Family Centers



For over 30 years, Arlene Patterson has lived in the Amani community. She has been an active member of the Amani United Neighborhood Association for over a year, and serves as Chair of the organization. She became involved because local residents visited her home and asked her to get involved where she could make a difference. She is very appreciative of all the residents who have contributed to improving the quality of life in Amani.

Arlene was born and raised in Milwaukee where she attended Keefe Avenue School and Washington High School. She holds an Associates Degree in Business, a Bachelors Degree in Management, and is currently finishing her Masters Degree in Business Management from Cardinal Stritch University. Once she completes her Masters Degree, her goal is to find a job where she can use her life skills and education to work with the Amani Community to make a positive impact. Arlene previously worked for the State of Wisconsin in the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation along with the Wisconsin Women's Cancer Control Program in Madison, Wisconsin where she made a difference serving women with breast cancer.

Arlene is very proud that she was able to go back to college to finish her education. She is also very proud of her family. Her children Nehemiah Prescott and Bianca Prescott attended Auer Avenue School in the Amani Neighborhood. For

Arlene, her strong family and her religious values are a focal point in her life and a reason why she enjoys working with the community so that positive change can occur in Amani. Arlene believes that some key issues need to be addressed, including education, jobs for adults and youth, health care, and overall safety.

When Arlene is not volunteering or going to school, she enjoys reading books, shopping, and spending quality time with her family. You can meet Arlene at the Amani United Meetings that are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the COA Goldin Center. She always has a smile and is a positive role model. Arlene Patterson is someone you should know.

The transformation of Moody Park is almost complete! Construction is coming along and the park should be open in late summer. The new park will offer programming and activities to keep residents safe and active during our outdoor months. A grand opening celebration is being planned for August—stay tuned for more details.

The Friends of Moody Park are currently seeking new members and a Treasurer. Monthly meetings have resumed and are held on the third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at the COA Goldin Center Library. For more details please contact Unitedamani@gmail.com.

2nd Annual Parent Empowerment Conference

By Lisa Petzak

Program Coordinator—COA Ethel Nutis Gill Family Resource Centers

COA hosted its second annual Parent Empowerment Conference on May 30, 2015. Through a collaboration between Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and COA's Gill Family Resource Center, parents and children enjoyed a day filled with valuable activities such as workshops, entertainment, and a resource fair. COA and CHW would like to thank staff, volunteers, and sponsors that supported the event. Lisa Petzak, the Gill Family Resource Center Coordinator and Tunisia Sims, Children's Health Community Navigator encourage all families to attend the next conference in spring of 2016. It is a great opportunity for the community to come together.