

## Reach Out and Read at Children's Hospital Goldin Center Clinic

By Susan Thaller FNP-BC, APNP  
Marquette College of Nursing

The Children's Hospital Clinic at the COA Goldin Center is a partnership between COA, the Marquette School of Nursing and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. These organizations were united in their desire to address the health needs of the Amani Community and empower families to improve their health and wellness.

Our clinic is excited to extend this partnership with Reach Out and Read, a national organization that promotes literacy and school readiness in young children. Reach Out and Read is a research-based approach for health care providers that aims to engage parents and caregivers in daily activities to develop children's reading skills, enjoyment of reading and school success. Our nurse practitioners will be using some of the following recommendations from the Reach Out and Read program in our everyday care of patients:

- Recognize that parents caregivers are children's first and most important teachers.
- Assess verbal development during each well-check for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- Talk to parents and caregivers about the benefits of reading to their children.
- Give patients between the ages of six months and five-years-old a book at every well-child exam.

Together, healthcare providers, parents and caregivers, community and national organizations can help toddlers and preschoolers engage in the pleasures of reading and all of the benefits this provides.



## Keep Kids Learning: A Message from Auer Avenue School

By Felice Beal  
Principal, Auer Avenue School

This year has been filled with many activities and learning opportunities for the students of Auer Avenue School. We truly enjoyed working with your children and seeing your family throughout the year.

There are many exciting activities for your children this summer. We encourage you to take advantage of programs that will enhance your child's learning all summer long. Some examples include: summer schools offered by Milwaukee Public Schools; reading programs at area libraries; and summer day camps and over-night camp at COA Youth & Family Centers. No matter what you do, we want everyone to stay safe, have fun and take some time out to gain more knowledge this summer!



# Community Happenings

All events take place at the COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh Street  
Please note that programming is CLOSED Monday, June 9 - Friday, June 13

**COA Summer Day Camps begin on Monday, June 23rd and run through Friday, August 22nd.**

**Programming for ages five -12 is 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Wraparound care is available at an additional fee. Applications must be received one week prior to attendance start date.**

**Teen programming is 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.**

**Register at the Goldin Center or visit [www.coa-yfc.org](http://www.coa-yfc.org).**

**Friday, June 6th:** Summer Kickoff Community Fun Night, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Skate van, BBQ, raffles, relay races, resource booths and more.

**Wednesday, June 11th :** Goldin Parental Support Meeting, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy dinner, learn about resources, and engage with fellow community members!

**Wednesday, July 9th:** Goldin Parental Support Meeting, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, July 12th:** Community Action Day, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Community cleanup from 10:00 a.m. - noon, which will be followed by a BBQ, games and a resource fair from noon - 4:00 p.m. Participants of the cleanup will be entered into a raffle to win a bike.

**For more information on any of these programs, please call (414) 449-1757**

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## New Early Education Center Coming to Amani

By Andre Goode  
Senior Program Director  
COA Youth & Family Centers

The Burke Foundation announced a \$2 million award to COA Youth & Family Centers to build a new early childhood education center at COA's Goldin Center in the Amani neighborhood. COA Executive Director Tom Schneider stated, "Quality early child education provides the foundation for success in school and success in life. We want children and families in Amani to have access to the very best in childcare."

At COA's Riverwest Center on East North Avenue, COA operates one of only six nationally accredited childcare centers in the City of Milwaukee. Under the State of Wisconsin's YoungStar rating system, this childcare center has the highest rating: five-stars. For 38 years, COA has provided high-quality early childhood education, recognizing that this focus on children birth to five has a deep, and often lifelong impact. "Children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are three to four times more likely to drop out in later years." [National Adult Literacy Survey, U.S. Department of Education].



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# Amani United

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Currently in Amani there are no five-star childcare centers and no four-star centers. COA's Early Child Education Director Jeanne Diffley asked, "Why shouldn't children in Amani have access to the best quality early childhood education? This new childcare center will be built inside of the current COA Goldin Center and provide the best care for Amani children and families."

Planning for the center has already begun and COA hopes that it will be open to the public by summer of 2015. Building the new early child education center is another part of the exciting changes to support a strong Amani neighborhood. Residents have formed the Amani United neighborhood association, the new Moody Park is being built, youth programs are packed at the COA Goldin Center, the new Ethel Nutis Gill Family Center and the Children's Hospital clinic are serving a great community need, and the GED program at the Dominican Center continues to grow. The new early child education center is another step toward making Amani a better place to live and raise a family.

## Amani United Elects Officers

On May 27, neighborhood residents elected the following officers of the Amani United neighborhood association: Chair – Arlene Peterson; Co-Chair – Ba Ba Odina El; and Secretary – Pepper Ray. All residents are invited to attend:

**Saturday, May 31:** Amani Neighborhood Cleanup, Bloom & Groom at 9:00 a.m. at the Dominican Center for Women, 2470 W. Locust St.

**Saturday, June 7:** Amani United Housing Committee at 9:00 a.m. at the Dominican Center for Women

**Tuesday, June 24:** Amani United Neighborhood Association meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh.

**Thursday, June 26:** Friends of Moody Park at 5:00 p.m. at the COA Goldin Center.

## Amani United News Contributing Board

**Patricia Anderson**  
Amani Community Navigator  
COA Youth & Family Centers

**Mara Duckens**  
Associate Executive Director  
COA Youth & Family Centers

**Andre Goode**  
Senior Program Director  
COA Youth & Family Centers

**Lisa Petzak**  
Program Coordinator  
Ethel Nutis Gill Family  
Resource Center

**Sister Patricia Rogers**  
Executive Director  
Dominican Center for Women

**Susan Thaller**  
FN-BC, APNP  
Marquette University

## Partner Organizations

Amani United

Brighter Futures

Children's Hospital of  
Wisconsin

COA Youth & Family Centers

Dominican Center for Women

Marquette University

Medical College of Wisconsin

Northwestern Mutual

Safe & Sound

United Neighborhood Centers of  
Milwaukee

**Do you have story ideas for our next edition? If so, please contact Andre Goode at (414) 449-1757 or agoode@coa-yfc.org.**

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[www.coa-yfc.org](http://www.coa-yfc.org)

## First Annual Parent Empowerment Conference a Success!

By Lisa Petzak  
Ethel Nutis Gill Family Resource Center Coordinator

The Parent Empowerment Conference, held at COA's Goldin Center on April 5, 2014, gave parents a special day to share their childrearing expertise and gain valuable new insights. Parents participated in a variety of workshops that explored topics like effective family communication, stress relief, breastfeeding, domestic abuse, and co-parenting. Parents also took advantage of classes in self-defense and cardio dance. While parents attended these free workshops, children enjoyed a fun filled day with an animal show, art class, story time, and a musical sign language sing-a-long. In addition, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin hosted a resource fair which attracted 30 vendors.

If you have questions about any of the topics offered at the Parent Empowerment Conference, or would like information on parenting resources, please call the COA Goldin Family Resource Center at (414) 449-1757.

**The Ethel Nutis Gill Family Resource Center offers free programming for children birth to five and their adult caregivers. Drop-in family time is held Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon - 2:00 p.m., and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Job Search time is available for parents Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. with free childcare provided.**



Children and adults gather in the Ethel Nutis Gill Family Resource Center to learn and play together

## Amani Spring Cleanup: UNITED and PROUD

By Sister Patricia Rogers  
Executive Director – Dominican Center For Women

On April 26, 2014, a chilly Saturday morning, over 60 Amani residents gathered to clean up our neighborhood. The group included adults and children, the North Division High School track team, 5th District police officers and volunteers and staff from multiple community agencies including COA Youth & Family Centers and the Dominican Center for Women. A true showing of Amani pride and resident engagement!

The group broke into nine cleaning teams and initiated a friendly competition to see who could collect the most trash. Over the course of several hours the teams cleaned from 21st Street to 24th Place and from Burleigh Street to Locust Street. In total, over 90 bags of trash were collected. The winning team, which had filled 21 garbage bags, walked away with gift cards and treats for the youngest helpers. All cleaning participants gathered after the event to receive refreshments and valuable information about Amani resources and programs. Thanks to everyone who came out to support these efforts. This was certainly an Amani United proud moment.

## Painting with a Purpose

By Vanessa L. Llanas  
Community Outreach Liaison  
City of Milwaukee - Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC)

Responding to resident concerns about safety and vacant foreclosed properties, the City of Milwaukee is partnering with Amani United, ArtWorks for Milwaukee, COA Youth & Family Centers, the Dominican Center For Women, and the Volunteer Center of Milwaukee to bring the Painting with Purpose project to the Amani neighborhood.

Painting with Purpose is focused on revitalizing the Amani community by installing decorative panels on city-owned vacant homes. Fifty youth volunteers from the Amani neighborhood will create decorative panels, meet with other Amani residents to talk about Amani's past, present and future, and participate in community meetings and clean-ups. Through this initiative:

- 40 city-owned vacant homes will get "alternative board-ups" using boards created by youth volunteers
- Youth volunteers who are registered will also learn basic life, job and art skills
- 300 community volunteers will pick up 6,000 pounds of litter to help beautify Amani

To get involved with the Painting with Purpose project, contact Project Coordinator Anwar Floyd-Pruitt (414) 939-4435 or Sister Patricia Rogers (414) 444-9930. This project is supported by the Cities of Service Impact Volunteering Fund, and funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the City of Milwaukee Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation.



Before decorative boards



After decorative boards

## Sister Patricia Rogers: Leader Makes a Big Difference in Lives

By Ba Ba Odina EL  
Amani Community Resident

Sister Patricia Rogers is a taskmaster who serves the residents in Milwaukee's Amani Community by providing women and men with the opportunity to earn their GEDs. The first time I encountered Sr. Rogers was at the Dominican Center for Women where I began to learn about the Building Neighborhood Capacity initiative.

I appreciate Sr. Patricia for her faith and her strong leadership. While in a housing committee meeting, I admired the way she directed the meeting like directing a band by setting the tempo and tone with a touch of the drum major instinct. She stayed on point, post, and position in putting together black contractors to create economic opportunities. She kept everyone focused on the task at hand. She is the real deal like the world champ Holyfield. She is someone you should know and I am proud to call her my friend.



Sister Patricia Rogers