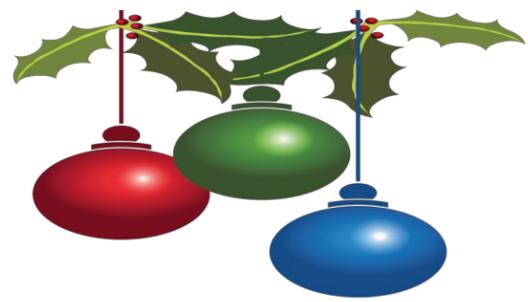


Community Happenings



Sun 12-22-16	AMANI Food Pantry (Greater Little Hill Church)	9:30 am - 11:30 am
Sun 12-25-16	AMANI Youth in Action-Family Christmas Feast (Wisconsin Center)	10:00 am - Noon
Mon 12-26-16	Kwanzaa Opening Ceremony (Wisconsin Black Historical Society)	6:00 pm
Thurs 12-29-16	AMANI Food Pantry (Greater Little Hill Church)	9:30 am - 11:30 am
Thurs, 1-5-17	AMANI Food Pantry (Greater Little Hill Church)	9:30 am - 11:30 am
Sat 1-7-17	1st Saturday Meeting (Dominican Center)	8:30 am
Mon 1-9-17	Amani Safety Committee meeting (COA)	6:00 pm
Thurs 1-12-17	AMANI Food Pantry (Greater Little Hill Church)	9:30 am - 11:30 am
Fri, 1-13-17	Burke EEC Parent Advisory Committee Meeting	4:45 - 5:45 pm.
Thurs 1-19-17	AMANI Food Pantry (Greater Little Hill Church)	9:30 am - 11:30 am
Tues 1-24-17	AMANI United meeting (COA Library)	4:30 pm
Thurs 1-26-17	AMANI Food Pantry (Greater Little Hill Church)	9:30 am - 11:30 am
Tues 2-21-17,	Spring Primary Voting (COA Goldin Center)	7:00 am - 8:00 pm



Children's Community Health Plan

by Tanisha Collins-Johnson, HMO Member Advocate
Children's Community Health Plan

What's new this Holiday season at Children's Community Health Plan? We are excited to announce that we are now offering health insurance on the Marketplace exchange at an affordable rate. For more information, please visit <https://childrenscommunityhealthplan.org/Members/Marketplace/Health-Insurance-Marketplace>. We want you to have a safe and healthy Holiday season. Please make sure you and your family get your flu shots and are up to date with immunizations. It's not fun to be sick around the Holidays. Remember to make time to get your annual check-up and dental exam before the end of the year. If you need assistance making an appointment or have any questions, please call our Member Advocate Hotline at 1-877-900-2247.

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Amani Residents Speak Out - Nuisance Store is Closed

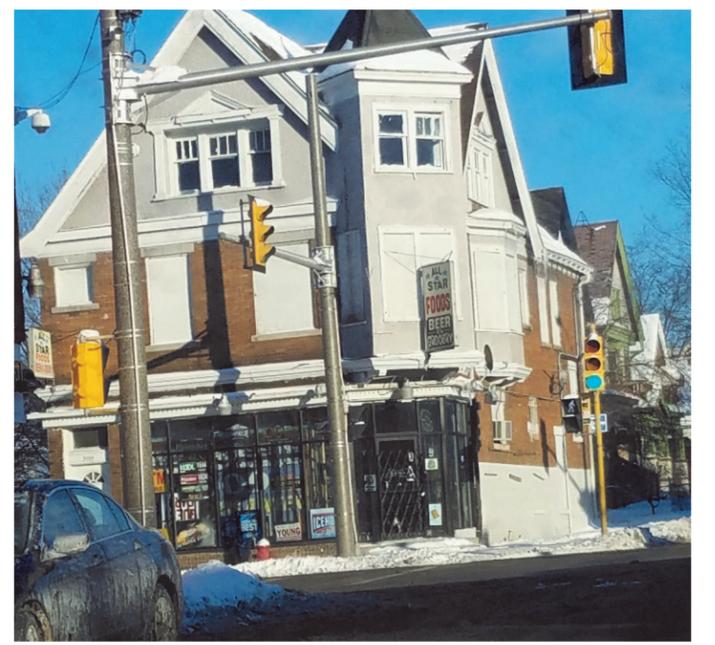
by Nicole Franklin
COA Community Engagement Coordinator

With residents, community organizations, the police, and the City Attorney's Office all working together, All Star Foods - on the corner of Burleigh and 27th Street - was closed by city officials in October. The City found that workers failed to address the illegal sales of tobacco and alcohol to minors, and there were also several different unsanitary conditions found in the store.

After being contacted by Assistant City Attorney Nick DeSiato, *Safe and Sound* spearheaded the fight to address these concerns. *Safe and Sound* District 5 Community Organizer Adrian Spencer worked with Amani residents and other leaders, which also included Barbara Smith - the newly elected Amani United Neighborhood Association chair. The group of residents and community leaders went out and spoke to over 100 Amani residents, and residents were invited to attend and speak out at the license revocation hearings at City Hall. The issue was also discussed during several Amani Safety Task Force meetings. Participating residents all agreed that something needed to be done about the store.

Residents expressed a variety of concerns that included the selling of alcohol and drug paraphernalia to minors, spoiled and outdated foods, and others issues such as intimidation. One of the most alarming discoveries was that a young lady had been trafficked out of the basement of the property.

After speaking with residents, 9 dedicated residents and community leaders committed to going to the Licensing Revocation hearing including longtime resident, Mr. Reverend Brown, who has lived in the Amani community for 48 years. He declared, "I've



been in this neighborhood for a long time and I have never seen some of the things that go on like in that store. Drugs, overpriced food and sex trafficking — it's a shame!" Residents like Barbara Smith took the approach of reaching out to city officials by mail. And Amani agency representatives Sr Patricia Rogers and Tom Schneider also attended the hearing.

Ultimately, the Licensing Committee and the Common Council decided to revoke the store's license and the store would be closed and subjected to a three year property vacation. Adrian Spencer stated, "Closing All Stars with the help of the Amani residents, the community partners, and the licensing board is what makes neighborhoods like Amani stronger." Examples like this, highlight what can be done when residents take control of their community and stand together to make impactful change.

Amani United News Contributing Board

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53206 Drug-Free Communities
Coordinator

Ms. Barbara Smith
AMANI United Chair-Elect

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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

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Someone You Should Know : Dr. Zanetta Walker Principal of Auer Avenue Community School

By Michelle Allison
Community School Coordinator for Auer Avenue Community
School - United Way of Greater Milwaukee

Dr. Zanetta Walker began her journey into the field of education as a student in Milwaukee Public Schools attending Townsend Street School, Steuben Middle School, and Milwaukee Trade and Technical High School. She has served the students, their families, and the staff of Milwaukee Public Schools for 28 years. "Starting at MPS, staying at MPS, and succeeding at MPS" has proven to be the beginning of her quest to become a life-long learner. Dr. Walker started working with MPS in 1987 as a general education assistant and has held the following positions: para-professional, teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal. Obtaining her doctorate degree proved to be quite the adventure. She currently is the proud principal of Auer Avenue Community School, "The Best School in the City."

Working in various positions has afforded her the ability to have a wide variety of experiences in the K12 educational framework, which has allowed her to fully understand what it takes to be a servant leader to improve academic outcomes for all students.

Dr. Walker believes that it takes everyone in the school and the community to partner together to provide our students with a firm academic foundation and learning journeys in the community to broaden their understanding about their place in the world. With the support of the dedicated staff at Auer and our community partners, Dr. Walker believes that, "team work-will make the dream work," and she is excited to be a part of the Auer Avenue Community School Team and a part of the Amani community!

A Warm Welcome from Barbara Smith 2017 AMANI United Chair

First and foremost, I would like to publicly say "thank you," to the neighbors and community partners for electing me to be the Amani United chairperson. I will continue to strive to make AMANI the community that we all want to see: thriving, caring, making it a safe place for our youth and elders, as well as building positive relationships with one another and our neighbors. I'm looking forward to building on the relationships and connections that already exist with our current community partners and establishing new relationships. Always keeping in mind, that this is a team effort and

nothing can be accomplished alone. I would love for AMANI to "be about what we talk about."

Ms. Barbara Smith
2017 AMANI United Chair-Elect



53206 Drug-Free Communities Project

By Rashida Butler, 53206 Drug-Free Communities Coordinator

The 53206 Drug-Free Communities Project works to prevent and reduce youth alcohol and marijuana use in Milwaukee's 53206 zip code including Milwaukee's Amani and Lindsay Heights neighborhoods. Preventing youth drug use also prevents crime and opens up possibilities for the young people in our communities. The Project works to do numerous things in our communities including, but not limited to:

- Reducing access to alcohol and marijuana or marijuana paraphernalia;
- Enhancing community leader skills;
- Providing information and resources to the community.

As of July 2016, under the leadership of Rashida Butler, 53206 Drug-Free Communities Coordinator, the following benchmarks have been made:

- Surveyed 100 students to get accurate data about their marijuana and alcohol usage and the perception about the risks and harms of this behavior. We are currently in the process of sharing this data with youth, residents, and community partners to create strategic plans that specifically address the trends from the data.
- Had every student at Auer Avenue Community School take the "A Drug-Free Me" Pledge and made commitments to live a drug-free life AND spread the message to their peers and their community about why it is important.

- Hosted a 53206 Drug-Free Communities Retreat. 20 representatives from our community came together to learn about the 53206 Drug-Free Communities Project, network, and get extensive training on the Strategic Prevention Framework and Seven Strategies for Community Change. Attendees also participated in a gallery walk and focus group to share their experiences and opinions on youth substance usage in the 53206 zip code.



We are looking to recruit volunteers to help move us toward our goals of increasing community collaboration and reducing youth use of alcohol and marijuana in the 53206 zip code.

To learn more, visit 53206drugfree.org or contact Rashidah Butler at (414) 270-4659 or RButler@CommunityAdvocates.net.

AMANI Neighborhood Mural

By La'Torya Willingham, COA Goldin Youth Development Program Manager
Marvin Jones, COA Goldin Teen Program Coordinator

The AMANI community engagement mural, located in the Max Samson & Nancy Pinter Family Teen Center at COA's Goldin Center, was created by youth at the Goldin Center and community members from the Amani neighborhood. The project was facilitated by Enrique Murguria who along with the youth participants and community members came up with an art work that reflects the past, present and the future of the neighborhood. This project was made possible by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary L. Nohl Fund .

The Goldin Center plays an important role in the lives of those it serves. The teens expressed that they enjoy coming to the Center because of its new art programs, workshops, feeling safe, and having a fun place to hang out and complete homework. In addition teens participants are able to play basketball and learn from positive adult role models. The community members believe that COA is crucial for the growth and success of the future leaders of the community.

The silhouettes of the people in the mural represent the

community coming together to make a positive change. The shovels in the mural represent the cultivation of young men and women to be successful leaders. The shovels also represent the teen's gardening project worked on each summer. Each star at the top of the mural represents the number of years that the teen center has been at the Goldin Center, manifesting quality youth and community members, and evoking the best from those who partner and participate in programming and events.

This mural is a reflection of the Amani neighborhood and it embodies the rich history of the community, the cultivation of young minds, and the future success of COA in partnership with the AMANI community.

