

## WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY

The Wisconsin Humane Society and COA's Goldin Center began a partnership to serve youth in 2014. Through the partnership, the Wisconsin Humane Society provides afterschool programming for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders. Programs include information on how to be safe around animals, animals' physical and emotional needs, and ways that the Wisconsin Humane Society helps animals in the community. Wisconsin Humane Society staff come to COA, and the kids at COA also visit the Wisconsin Humane Society's Milwaukee Campus where students take a behind-the-scenes tour, meet staff members to learn about their jobs, learn about backyard wildlife, and, of course, meet animals. The 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders also visit the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) to learn about the services they provide to our community and how they partner with the Wisconsin Humane Society.

We have always read animal-themed books as part of our partnership visits, and this year we expanded the literacy component of the program. Kids can read aloud to a supportive, non-judgmental listener – a dog. Merlin, Maggie, and Lainie sit with groups of one or two kids, and the kids read a book of their choice to their dog. At the end of each reading session, the kids get to give their dog a treat, which is the kids' and the dogs' favorite part! This type of program has been shown to be effective in building young people's reading confidence. It also gives the kids some great cuddle time with the dogs and helps kids who have had limited or negative experiences with animals build confidence interacting with them safely.

The Wisconsin Humane Society is excited to continue to build the relationship with COA and Amani community youth. Each year, we hold space for young people nominated by COA for our People and Animals Learning (PAL) Program, a free summer program that pairs young people ages 10 to 13 with shelter dogs to train.

In addition to programs for young people, the Wisconsin Humane Society offers pet care resources, including spay/neuter, to residents in the 53206 zip code and surrounding neighborhoods at no charge. You may have met our outreach team, who work Tuesday through Saturday, meeting residents and their pets. If you are interested in free spay/neuter services or need support for your pet, contact our Pets for Life team by phone or text at (414) 629-5507.



### *Amani Community Happenings*

#### June

- 6/8 Amani– First Saturday Meeting, 8:30AM at the Dominican Center, 2470 W. Locust ST.
- 6/12 Amani Housing Committee Meeting, 4-6PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- 6/20 Friends of Moody Park Meeting, 4-6PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- 6/25 Amani United neighborhood association, Fourth Tuesday, 4:30—6 PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- Every Wednesday, COA Food Pantry, 4-6PM, COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh**

#### July

- 7/6 Amani– First Saturday Meeting, 8:30AM, Dominican Center, 2470 W. Locust St.
- 7/1 Amani Safety– First Monday Meeting, 4:00PM, 4-6PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- 7/8 Chick Fil-a Field Day, Moody Park, 11:30PM
- 7/11 Amani Housing Committee Meeting, 4-6PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- 7/18 Friends of Moody Park Meeting, 4-6PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- 7/23 Amani United neighborhood association, Fourth Tuesday, 4:30 - 6 PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- Every Wednesday, COA Food Pantry, 4-6PM, COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh**

#### August

- 8/3 – First Saturday Meeting, 8:30AM, Dominican Center, 2470 W. Locust St.
- 8/6 Amani Safety– First Monday Meeting, 4-6PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- 8/8 Amani Housing Committee Meeting, 4-6PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- 8/27 Amani United neighborhood association, Fourth Tuesday, 4:30 - 6 PM, 2200 W. Auer, Moody Pavilion
- 8/23 COA Community Fun Night - "Back to School" COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh
- Every Wednesday, COA Food Pantry, 4 - 6 PM, COA Goldin Center, 2320 W. Burleigh**

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Community Happenings

# AMANI United

Issue 23: June 2109

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## Group Prenatal and Well-baby Healthcare at COA-Goldin Center (CenteringPregnancy, CenteringParenting)

Do you wish you had more support as a  
pregnant or current parent of an infant?



Want to be part of a community of other pregnant women or families with newborns?  
Wish you had more time with your or your baby's doctor?  
Have questions about your health or your baby's growth and development?  
Or, do you know someone else who might?

**If so, then "CenteringPregnancy" or "CenteringParenting" is a great fit.**

Within Amani, we are working to improve the alarming birth and infant health disparities in our community. The preterm birth rate is 14.72%, compared to national and Wisconsin averages of around 9%. Of infants born, 15.5% have low birth weight (compared to the 8.1% national and 7.3% Wisconsin averages). The Amani infant mortality rate of 17 per 1000 births is nearly triple the national and state averages. Addressing these disparities is important to achieve a healthier community.

The COA Goldin Center and the Aurora Family Medicine Residency Program have partnered to provide *Centering*, which is group prenatal and well-baby healthcare. The program provides innovative healthcare and addresses these birth and health disparities. Participants in *Centering* have better health outcomes, for example being 36% less likely to have a premature infant. Studies show that participants have increased knowledge and improved parenting experiences.

*CenteringParenting*, group well-baby care, is being offered now. These healthcare visits replace individual well-baby clinic visits and are covered by insurance (including Medicaid). Groups meet 6 times using the same schedule as well-baby visits (when baby's age is 1 month, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, and 1 year). In the coming months, *CenteringPregnancy*, group prenatal visits for pregnant women, will also begin.

During groups, parents and babies have individual time with a physician as well as group discussions. Group discussion topics include growth, development, wellness, nutrition, parenting, and safety. Parents are invited to bring their own questions and topics to discuss. Each session is 2 hours long, providing parents with over 10 times the amount of time they would usually get to spend with a physician.

96% of women prefer *Centering* to traditional clinical care. Participants experience a greater sense of support and community. A current participant, Arianna says her favorite part of *Centering* is "being able to talk to the doctors in a more comfortable setting--I've been to clinics/EDs and have not been able to really talk to the doctors like I do at *Centering*. Also, having more than one doctor there means you can get more than one opinion about the topic you have questions on."

**If you are interested in learning more and/or participating in *CenteringParenting* or *CenteringPregnancy*, please call (414-444-0077) or email: [Centering@aurora.org](mailto:Centering@aurora.org).**

## Amani United News Contributing Board

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## Partner Organizations

Amani United  
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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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## Amani Housing Committee

The Dominican Center's Housing Committee has begun the implementation of The Amani Housing Strategy Plan. Dominican Center states the goal of the housing program is revitalization through resident leadership which is cultivated and encouraged at each step in the program. Dominican Center works with homeowners to make their homes healthy, safe and code-compliant. Dominican Center is also one of eight Milwaukee's Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP) agencies. NIP agencies help individuals through Home repair assistance projects include abatement of building code violations, maintenance, and mechanical work (but it is not home repair program).

The Amani Housing Strategy Plan was unveiled to the public during the Rock the Block Celebration on May 18, 2019. This celebration hosted about 100 residents and partners (such as Habitat For Humanity and Northwestern Mutual) that conducted a block clean-up, provided resources, free entertainment, food, a special guest speakers appearance by Milwaukee Bucks mascot Bango, and presented the remodeled "Critter House".

This house, located at 2942 N. 26th Street, earned the name "critter house" from its neighbors, because of all the raccoons, rats, cats, and squirrels that use to come in and out of the house. This house and houses in similar boarded and over-run weeded conditions have drawn attention from the City and this is being addressed by Amani Residents, together with collaborations with the Milwaukee Christian Center, and initiatives such as The Amani Housing Strategy Plan.

One of the Amani Housing Strategies is to target the renters in Amani and assist them to homeownership. We have a nearby neighbor who is already interested in buying the "critter house." Residents can get involved by contacting Alex by phone (work cell: 414-614-6272), emailing [alex@dominican-center.org](mailto:alex@dominican-center.org), or joining us at the Amani Housing meetings every 2nd Thursday of the month at 4 pm at the Dominican Center.



## Amani Patrol Initiative

The Amani Patrol Initiative has a mission to keep Amani crime down, enrich relationships, and support programming. The Amani Patrol Initiative is being established by Amani residents, Amani United committee members, community organizers, COA Youth & Family Centers, Dominican Center, Milwaukee Police, Milwaukee County Sheriffs, NOVA, and Safe & Sound.

*More residents are needed for this initiative to patrol, participate in community programming, learn emergency procedures, and overall provide support for a more safe Amani neighborhood.*

This initiative will increase the planned engagement and interaction in Moody Park through events such as art activities, basketball clinics, flag football, kick ball, martial arts, skate truck, and yoga. The Milwaukee Police Department also stated Moody Park safety is a priority and they would also have specific officers designated in Moody Park and ensure these officers dress in tennis shoes instead of boots to engage with the community. Recently officer were seen playing basketball and football in Moody Park. The sheriff's Department also shared a MCSO mobile app for anyone to submit anonymous tips or report criminal activity.

Clifton Agee of NOVA said it is important that we all come together and he does not want to see any more incidents in the park. Agee stated, "Great people of Milwaukee, please let us all have a safe summer." To be get involved or get more information, contact Milton Byers, Safe & Sounds District 5 Community Organizer, at [Milton@safesound.org](mailto:Milton@safesound.org) or 414-902-0788.

Article by: By David A. White, COA Goldin Operations Manager

## ASTHMA AWARENESS

As we prepare for the summer heat wave, asthma tends to be the most common worry. If this is a common issue at home, it may be best to have an asthma management plan. An asthma management plan is conducted with your child's physician to help you understand what to do when asthma is in control, when symptoms start to flare, and what medications are needed for support. *Here are a few early signs to detect when an asthma management plan needs to be in tact:*

- Coughing (Especially in the late evening)
- Wheezing
- Tight or heavy chest
- Playing less or low recreation involvement

*Here are emergency signs to detect when asthma has gotten out of control and needs professional support in the following:*

- When rescue medicine is not working or unavailable
- Breathing has become faster or harder
- Nose flares intensely
- Skin between the rib cage pulls in/retractions
- Having trouble walking, talking, or sleeping
- Coughing continuously without hesitation



Kids deserve the best.

In case of any emergency, please call your doctor or go to urgent care/emergency room right away. It is recommended to follow your asthma management plan for which medicines to use and how to control varies asthma concerns. Without the asthma management plan being followed accordingly, an asthma attack could become more severe. For more information or assistance with your child's asthma, contact Dorian James, our Asthma Management Program Coordinator for Children's Hospital of WI at 414-345-7833 or [DJJames@chw.org](mailto:DJJames@chw.org).

## BURKE EARLY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

At COA's Burke Early Education Center we take on the exciting world of education by allowing children to learn through play. And we are proud to say we have been providing quality care to the Amani community since 2015. Burke is a 4-star Early Education Center that offers diverse learning experiences. We also offer continuity care at the center. Continuity care is a practice where the Teacher follows the child to different age appropriate classrooms as the child gets older. This practice allows for positive social emotional development as well as consistency for the child and for the family.

Another great resource that Burke has is that we offer an Early Head Start program through our partnership with Next-Door. Through this program you can receive additional resources such as, home visits, access to a family advocate and childcare hours when your childcare authorization is pending. Through our partnership with Next-Door we are also able to have a book mobile come to our center, which is a family favorite. For the month of April the book mobile was themed around dinosaurs. The families at the center were able to read stories about dinosaurs, make fossils, meet a dinosaur and of course get a book to add to their home library. Ms. Mora, a volunteer at Burke was able to also attend the book mobile. Ms. Mora was asked: Why do you love volunteering at Burke and she said, "I love having the opportunity to shape the young minds in my community."

At the Burke Early Education Center we are always looking forward to having more families joining our COA community. If you are interested in finding out more information or scheduling a tour you can contact us at 414-447-9039 Monday thru Friday from 6:30 am- 6:00 pm.

