



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our focus this summer is aimed at ensuring that residents and youth can experience a safe summer in Milwaukee & Racine. Last month we were joined by Mayor Cavalier Johnson and partners across the city to help families and young people plug into safe resources. From basic water safety to dance camps to sports and recreation – we made sure to provide access to information about ways that others can engage and become involved in positive programming this summer. Consider us the "community connector" – as we work to hook young people up with lots of opportunities to enjoy all that is good about Milwaukee summers. During our Safe Summer Kick Off – many young people took the pledge to stay NO to alcohol and drug abuse, to say NO driving unsafe, saying NO to violent ways of handling conflict. Ask us about our Restorative Justice Circles (H.O.P.E. Circles – Hear Our Pain Expressed) that can be facilitated by our team to help restore peace, address harm and mediate groups as an extension of our safe summer focus. Stay hydrated. Stay connected. Stay engaged. Stay rooted in being the change you want to see.

-Bridget Whitaker





# FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 JAN SERR STUDIO 2155 N. PROSPECT AVENUE, MILWAUKEE

6-10 PM

## Let's celebrate:

### Reception for 25 years of Safe & Sound

Program, Dinner & Award Ceremony: Learn more about Safe & Sound's impact for crime and violence prevention and reckless driving. Then we honor this year's Herb Kohl Champion Award, Resident Leader Award, Youth Leader Award and more.

### **Event Hosts**

**Mayor Cavalier Johnson County Executive David Crowley** 

### **Event Co-Chairs**

**Bridget Borum Judge Derek Mosley Sodi Nichols** 

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS (AS OF JULY 12):

KOHĽS







FOR MORE DETAILS WWW.SAFESOUNDEVENTS.ORG

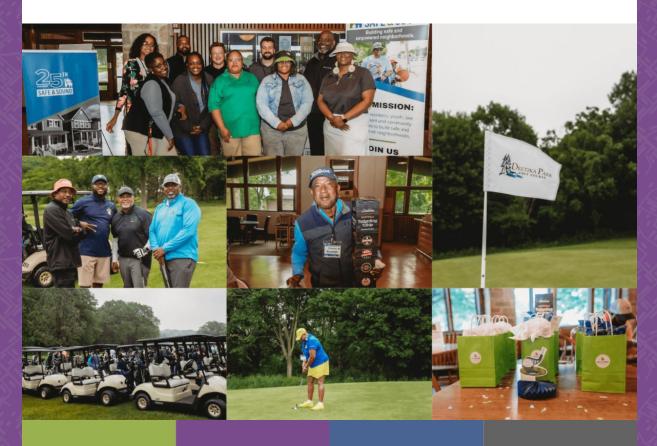


### SWING FORE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Our 3rd annual golf outing continues to be a FUNraiser that brings together partners and friends to support our mission of neighborhood safety. This year we took advantage of the beautiful Milwaukee County Parks and hosted our event at Dretzka Golf Course. While the sunshine was lackluster, the community gathering and competitive excitement on the greens was not short.

Proceeds from this year's event will support our youth violence prevention programming this summer.

Thank you again if you donated, gathered a foursome, shared the event on social media, and overall supported building safe and empowered neighborhoods!



80

100

PONSODS

IN ATTENDANCE

**SPONSORS** 

**FOURSOMES** 

Save the Date for 2024: Thursday, June 13, 2024 #SwingForeSafety

Donate



#### GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH







On Friday June 2nd, communities across the nation raised their voices as part of National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend. They proclaimed that guns can no longer be the number one killer of our young people and that we cannot break another homicide record this year. In Milwaukee, Safe & Sound joined with partners from Brady: United Against Gun Violence, Office of Violence Prevention, Moms Demand Action and many other supporters, and community members to host a Ceasefire Weekend. We recognized loved ones who have been lost to gun violence and ensured that these tragedies are not ignored.

On Friday evening, buildings throughout Milwaukee glowed orange to show their support and community members gathered at Epikos Church to watch the Milwaukee film "When Claude Got Shot". They were joined by survivors and advocates – including protagonist Claude Motley – to discuss their experiences, recovery, and forgiveness. Residents honored victims of gun violence with a peace march on Saturday and a memorial on Sunday.

Gun violence has impacted too many of our community, but it isn't our story. If it feels daunting, know that together we are already making a difference; there have already been 27 fewer homicides in 2023 than this time last year. We can't be defined by our challenges, but by our resilience.

#### Be part of the solution:

- 1. Ensure your guns are stored securely and unloaded--at home and in the car. This is particularly important for households where there is an enhanced risk of firearm misuse, including: the presence of toddlers or teens, drug or alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and elders with dementia or memory loss.
- 2. If anyone in your household is experiencing a mental health crisis, depression, or suicidal thoughts, store your guns off-site. Gun stores that offer off-site storage can be found here: https://www.betherewis.com/firearm-storage-online-map/
- 3. Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors about secure storage.

- 4. Ask anyone who cares for your child for any length of time whether they store their guns securely and unloaded. June 21st is the annual ASK Day. (Asking Saves Kids)
- 5. Call 911 every time you hear shots fired. Each call helps first responders get to the right location quickly; speed saves lives.
- 6. Report any lost or missing firearms to law enforcement.
- 7. Never buy a gun on behalf of someone else.
- 8. Never handle a gun, even one you think is unloaded, after drinking or using drugs.

### THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANTS

\$370,000

#### TO SUMMER OF HEALING AWARDEES

MILWAUKEE – The City of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) is pleased to announce the awardees for the annual Summer of Healing project. Many community-based organizations and leaders effectively utilize their established relationships to reduce violence in neighborhoods throughout Milwaukee. However, there is often a lack of resources available to facilitate strategies to promote healing, restorative practices, and resilience for youth, families, and residents in entire neighborhoods. In response, OVP created the Summer of Healing project to provide funds dedicated to supporting these leaders, improving their capacity, and positively impacting their communities. In total, ten youth-serving organizations were selected to receive a total of \$370,000 dollars to support their summer programming.

Awardees of these funds will coordinate and implement projects from June 15 through August 31 to support youth and their families who reside in Milwaukee's Promise Zones or other communities disproportionately affected by violence. Families interested in participating in any of these programs are encouraged to reach out to each organization directly. The list of awardees and their projects are:

Safe & Sound – Safe & Sound's summer youth programming is centered on ensuring youth ages 12 to 24 have access to activities and events that create engagement opportunities for positive youth leadership. From activating park spaces with creative neighborhood beautification projects to facilitating youth violence prevention workshops that deal with healthy relationships and mentorship connections, Safe & Sound will promote wellness and social emotional development all summer long.

Questions can be directed to Donta Holmes at <u>Donta@safeaound.org</u> or by phone at (414) 788-1912.

- Artists Working in Education (AWE)
- Casa Romero
- City Champs
- Diverse and Resilient
- The Center for Self-Sufficiency and My Sista's KeepHer
- Our Next Generation
- Running Rebels

- Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
- Southside Organizing Center



Pride Month was a time of celebration for members of the LGBTQIA+ Community and allies. Unfortunately, the data on the rates of substance use for this community are nothing to celebrate.

Due to the stigma, discrimination, harassment, and violence that members of this community face it is not surprising that they experience a higher likelihood of using/misusing substances. Data from the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found the following: 41.3% of sexual minority adults 18 and older reported past-year marijuana use, compared to 18.7% of the overall adult population 6.7% of sexual minority adults in 2020 misused opioids (prescription opioids or heroin use) in the past year, compared to 3.6% of the overall adult population 21.8% of sexual minority adults had an alcohol use disorder in the past year, compared to 11.0% in the overall population.

Last month the Safe & Sound tabled at Pride Fest to provide prevention resources and materials to help ensure that all are connected to healthy options and choices.

#### **DRIVE WISDOM**

Do you have a young person who is eager to get behind the wheel? Before you sign them up for a formal driver's education behind the wheel class - consider registering for the Safe & Sound DRIVE WISDOM course. The 6 week series is FREE to students ages 14-18 and provides a deep dive into the cost of driving (including the cost of insurance, cost of speeding and reckless driving and the options of transportation all around). Our Youth Organizers will cover a variety of materials that help new drivers understand the importance of the driving responsibility and be accountable to all that comes with having a driver's license. Help us create a Safe & Sound road across the city.

Workshops begin Saturday, July 8th To register - please email <a href="mailto:donta@safesound.org">donta@safesound.org</a> or call us at 414.220.4780

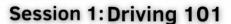
#DriveWisdom #SafeDriving #SafeSound #SafeSummer



JOIN US:

EVERY SATURDAY
JULY 8TH-AUGUST 12TH
10:30AM-12:30PM

SAFE & SOUND'S 6 WEEK DRIVE WISDOM YOUTH WORKSHOP



Session 2: Project 943 Video

Session 3: So You Got Pulled Over

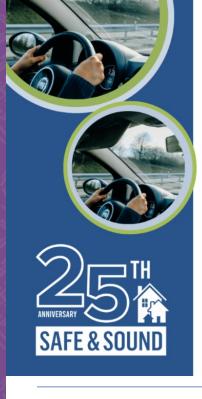
Session 4: Car, Bus, Bike or Walk

Session 5: The Cost of Driving

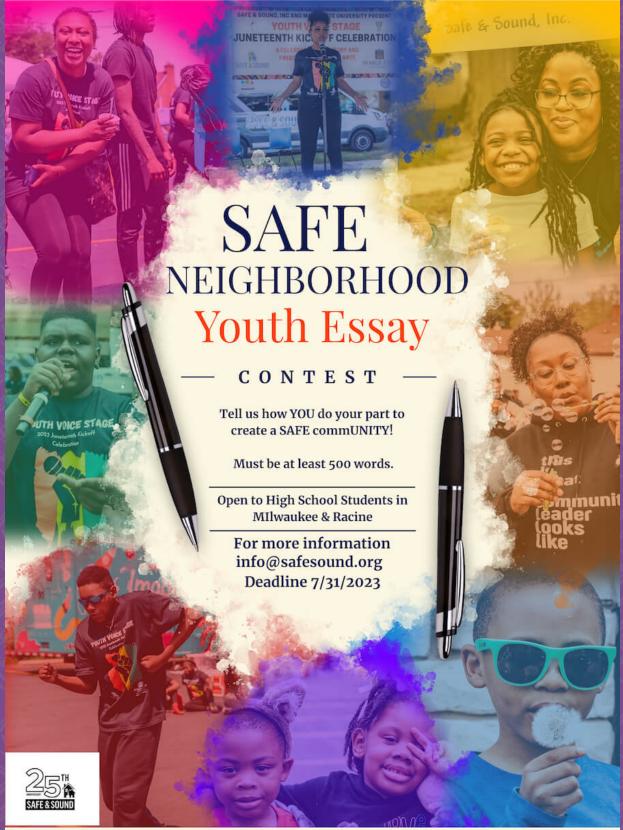
**Session 6: Safe & Sound Drivers** 

TO REGISTER YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 14 - 18

PLEASE CONTACT DONTA HOLMES
DONTA@SAFESOUND.ORG



Saf e Neighborhood Essay Contest



WWW.SAFESOUND.ORG

At Safe & Sound it is our mission to unite residents, youth, law enforcement and community resources to build safe and empowered neighborhoods. We specifically include YOUTH in our mission statement because we are intentional about creating space for the voice of young people to be heard when we have conversations about what it means to feel safe, be safe and impact conditions of safety.

This year in celebration of our 25th Anniversary - Safe & Sound will hold an essay contest to invite students to consider different aspects of safety. We're asking students to write about how crime and violence impact their neighborhood and what they believe is critically important to the safety and future of their neighborhood.

All high school students in Milwaukee and Racine are eligible to apply for scholarship prizes. Essays should pull from personal experience, current events, history, politics, art, anything really so long as they include a very thoughtful plan for change. Essays will be judged on their clarity, content, originality, and significance.





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