



E-NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I see Halloween decorations go up in my neighborhood, it is a reminder that residents enjoy the spirit of community. Whether we seek to entertain little ones with trick or treats – or simply want to embrace the festivities of a new season – the work that goes into putting together the October décor is a sign that we take pride in our home and our block. This coupled with countless invites for Trunk or Treat events hosted by local community partners, local law enforcement district stations and even a dozen block clubs – it is a good time to have a good time for the sake of bringing on the fun for young and not so young children.

New seasons help us all reset and focus on how we can show in new ways for one another. Since our last newsletter in July – the Safe & Sound team has been pretty busy showing up in their communities. Whether it was a neighborhood Pop Up event to activate a green space, a National Night Out where law enforcement grilled while doing the electric slide with the senior residents, our Drive Wisdom workshop providing emerging drivers with information on how to be safe on the road, or conducting outreach after a tragic incident of violence – our team spent a significant amount of time in community, across 12 priority neighborhoods + the surrounding community of Racine – to help empower and inspire others to be the change they want to see.

Just last month we celebrated the 25th anniversary of this neighborhood safety work and had an amazing opportunity to salute partners and stakeholders who have supported us from the very beginning. We are so grateful to have raised nearly \$90,000 to continue the journey of collective impact to answer the call to what safety means for different people. This October, we'll celebrate 1 year of having transitioned and relocated to our new headquarters in the heart of the Parklawn Neighborhood. What an awesome reflection of how much we've grown, how much we've evolved, how much we've achieved and much more work still remains for us to reach deeper.

As we wrap up this final quarter of 2023, our programming team is embarking on another year of reaching out output goals for resident engagement, youth prevention activities, abating nuisances and providing resources to police districts across Milwaukee and Racine. We hope that this month's newsletter compels you to keep supporting our work or begin learning how you can get involved.

*I would be remised if I did not extend sincere gratitude to so many of you who reached out with love and prayers and kind words this past summer when my eldest son was laid to eternal rest. I am humbled by a community that leaned in when I needed grace the most. What I know for sure is that time is no predictor of healing, however I find so much strength and light in this village to keep going.

Thank you! ♥

Bridget Whitaker, JD
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

The image contains two event posters. The left poster is for a 'Turkey Giveaway' on Nov 20th at 12PM, featuring a turkey, corn, and a turkey hat. It lists the location as DR. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 1531 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI, 53205. The right poster is for a 'Hygiene Drive' by the Youth Steering Committee, celebrating 25th Anniversary of Safe & Sound Racine. It lists drop-off locations: City Hall Racine, Piggly Wiggly, Villa St- COP House, Geneva St.- COP House, Dr. Martin Luther King Dr., and Bonafide Nutrition. It also includes contact info for Elaine at 414.316.7328 and logos for Racine Police, Malick's, Piggly Wiggly, Bonafide, and Home Depot.

SAFE & SOUND 360 GET TO KNOW OUR PEOPLE



TYLER ODENEAL

D5 Youth Organizer

Meet Tyler Odeneal, one of our newest staff members and the Youth Organizer for District 5. Tyler works in the Amani and Harambee neighborhoods. Tyler brings a fiery, yet grounded passion to the work that he does as a Youth Organizer, in part, because he grew up in the 53206 neighborhood. Tyler's goal is to address what he calls the "generational hopelessness" that he sees within the communities he works in. Yet, while he can identify the causes (generational poverty, lack of economic opportunity, unsafe neighborhoods) of this "generational hopelessness," he notes that his

work at Safe and Sound has allowed him to lean into

more of the opportunities of community work.

Tyler has always strived to live his life in service of community. This passion started from an early age when, at 13, he began to volunteer with young people who were differently abled and elderly persons. The work was so rewarding that he made a commitment to work towards the advancement of those in his community.

As a Youth Organizer, Tyler works closely with the Amani Youth Council, mentoring youth on Saturdays at the Dominican Center for women. He also leads Youth Preventing Violence workshops both with the youth at the Dominican Center and West Milwaukee Intermediate School. He enjoys participating in Barbershop Mondays and working with his district team to complete Collective Efficacy Surveys. In his work, Tyler is most passionate about the opportunities to work with youth and mentor them in shifting their mindsets away from hopelessness and toward hope for a future that is not defined by statistics. He hopes that his role will lead him to more connections in the community, not just with leaders or those in political positions, but with everyday people. He sees himself in the working class individuals who want safe neighborhoods and better economic opportunities for themselves and their families, pushing him to an even deeper sense of commitment because helping them means that he is helping himself.

Tyler, we are so inspired by your passion and dedication to creating Safe & Sound neighborhoods. Welcome to the team and we look forward to seeing how you will continue to empower the residents of District 5!

Meet Adam Finkel, Esq. who joined the Safe and Sound Board of Directors in September! While recently joining our Board of Directors, Adam has been a part of the Safe and Sound community for several years. He has participated in several of our Swing Fore Safety Golf Events and even won the tournament this year! Most notably, he was an instrumental part of the purchase of our new headquarters, serving as legal counsel in his role as a Commercial Real Estate Partner at Husch Blackwell.

Adam spent much of his life in Milwaukee and cares deeply about the community and the safety of residents. He believes in the growth of Milwaukee and SE Wisconsin. Serving on the Board of Directors aligns well with Adam's belief in the power of community outreach and youth programming to increase neighborhood safety. Adam is most excited about our youth engagement work because he believes that making a positive impact on youth creates a lasting impact for generations to come. With the help of organizations like Safe and Sound, youth become great citizens, making Milwaukee a better place to live.

Adam looks forward to increasing Safe and Sound's brand awareness, learning more about the inner workings of the organization, and participating in our community outreach efforts.

Thank you, Adam, for your support and work thus far and welcome to Safe and Sound!



ADAM FINKEL

Board Member Interview

FALL FESTIVAL TRUNK OR TREAT

On Thursday, October 26th, residents joined Safe and Sound Staff for a Fall Festival. Both youth and adults joined in the fun: laughing, playing games and participating in

arts activities. Festival participants received goody bags and went around from table to table learning about safety, resident empowerment, and prevention. Safe and Sound District tables focused on Drug Prevention, Reckless Driving, Gun Safety, and Resident Empowerment/Collective Impact. We were grateful to have several community partners attend the event to provide flu shots, covid vaccinations, blood pressure readings, and additional educational materials. Our partners included: Health Connections, Girls Scouts, Rocketship, Aurora, Style Pop Café, and the Milwaukee Fire Department.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO: SUMMERTIME WITH SAFE AND SOUND

**"I PLEDGE TO HAVE A SAFE & SOUND
SUMMER 2023."**

SAFE SUMMER KICKOFF

Our Safe Summer Kick Off, held on May 13th, was centered around asking Youth to sign a pledge for a Safe Summer. With a passport in hand listing all the community partners in attendance, youth went from booth to booth to answer the question: what is there to do this summer? The answer was a resounding: LOTS OF THINGS! From opportunities for employment, camp, sports, tutoring, mentorship, dance, and clubs that offer positive programming they learned about a wealth of places to have SAFE FUN and gain positive mentorship. Once they completed their passport, they were then invited to sign the pledge for a Safe Summer. The pledge asked youth to refrain from reckless driving, abusing drugs and alcohol, and using guns to resolve conflict. Safe and Sound believes in the power of education and connection. In fact, Mayor Johnson, during a press conference at the event, proclaimed that Safe & Sound would be the "connector for families" to learn about safe summer options for youth. With his support and the proclamation, our phones were ringing all summer helping parents to connect their youth to safe and positive activities.

Together with our partners we served 75 youth from over 100 families. Our partners included: The Mayor's Office, Hustle to Overcome Athletic, LLC, Agape Awesome Arrivals, COA Youth & Family Services, Wisconsin Community Services, Children's Mental Health & Wrap Around Milwaukee, Office of Community Wellness and Safety, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Milwaukee County Office of Equity, Community Health Navigator Family Advocate, The Cable Champ, Milwaukee Public Library, Boys and Girls Club, GLOW414, Owen's Place, Milwaukee Health Services, MPD, SDC, and The Literacy Lab.

Special Thanks to Terranda Renise and her husband Fetus of Fetus Auto Sales and Gamma Pi Sigma Alumnae Chapter for your generations donations to support our programming.

YOUTH VOICE STAGE

What better way to kick off Juneteenth than to celebrate the power of young voices! On June 17th, 2022 in collaboration with Dr. Kristen Haglund, Marquette University Professor of Nursing, Safe and Sound Youth Organizers kicked off Juneteenth Weekend with the presentation of Youth Voice Stage. The Youth Voice Stage was hosted by three Central City Cyber High School students and included a trivia segment on Black American history and a Talent Show. Youth from ages 8 to 20 showcased their talents in spoken word, music, and dance, to name a few.

We believe that youth prevention starts with youth engagement. Thus, the event also provided both Safe and Sound and our partners with the opportunity to share information about substance use prevention with the attendees. Over 20 partners engaged 200 people with prevention-related educational conversations and materials. Some of our partners included: Versiti, Milwaukee County Parks, Betty Brinn, Owen's Place, and United Healthcare.

POP UPS

Summertime is Pop-Up Time with Safe & Sound! From June 1st to September 30th, Safe & Sound neighborhood teams created 43 pop-up lots throughout our 10 priority neighborhoods. Our pop-up lots ensure that neighborhoods teams have the chance to interact, face-to-face, with the residents they serve. These interactions help us to build trust between Safe & Sound and residents, facilitating more opportunities for communication and partnership. This summer teams were able to spend over 800 hours in the community serving 721 adults and over 300 youth.

Neighborhood teams pop-up to engage residents by hosting ice cream socials, handing out pizza, and playing jump rope and basketball. Safe and Sounders also use pop-ups to set up resource tables and share prevention-related materials and information about community resources. Our presence often brings a sense of security to those in the neighborhood because of the daily challenges they face. Overall, the wellbeing of the residents we serve is of the utmost importance, so we are thoughtful and intentional about ways to provide residents with the tools to support their journeys to have a positive impact within their neighborhoods. See you at a pop-up next summer!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Where can you find residents and police officers hanging out, laughing, playing games, and competing for prizes? At their local National Night Out (NNO) event. Since 1984, MPD has coordinated National Night Out to promote trust, build a sense of community, and foster partnerships between local law enforcement and residents. This family-friendly event facilitates these goals by providing residents with the opportunity to interact with law enforcement in a relaxed and non-confrontational setting.

Safe and Sound is excited to co-host these events annually! We see that NNOs help law enforcement and residents to begin, continue, or increase their efforts to lean on each other's expertise to define and achieve safety for residents. In addition, they provide a space to elevate awareness of local crime, drug, and violence prevention efforts such as the establishment of block clubs and neighborhood watch clubs. As a bonus, we have seen NNOs improve resident's relationships with one another! NNOs bring the entire neighborhood together to create stronger networks that build safer neighborhoods.

This year, Safe and sound partnered with MPD and RPD to host 6 National Night Out Events attended by over 500 residents from each district.



BE THE YOU IN COMMUNITY
YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

[READ CRUZCITA & SEBASTIAN'S ESSAY](#)



[DOWNLOAD](#)



[DOWNLOAD](#)

A NIGHT TO UNITE
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



WERE HIRING (GRANT WRITING)

Join Safe & Sound as our Part Time Grant Writer and help shape a safer world.

[LEARN MORE](#)

IN THE NEWS



Happy 175th Birthday City of Racine, Wisconsin Government!
We were so excited to join in the festivities to celebrate you!

Our work with Racine began this January with three goals in mind: create partnerships, build relationships and heal people. In the past year we have held 134 Front Porch Conversations, helped to start 5 new block clubs, spent 1200 hours in the community, held 175 community events/meetings, engaged over 3000 youth and adults, and have distributed 585 prevention flyers. We have also built meaningful relationships with the community, youth, local businesses, and other safety-focused organizations. We are proud to have hosted our first Racine National Night Out on August 1st.

Elaine De La Cruz, Racine Neighborhood Safety Coordinator, says “This work is important to me because Racine is my community. My children are not only part of the youth in this community, but also are part of the next generation of adults that will raise

families here. It takes a village to promote growth and change in a community and I want to be an integral part of that work.”

We are excited about our new journey to support building safer neighborhoods in Racine!



OCTOBER AWARENESS

October is a significant month for Safe and Sound, as it marks the observance of National Bullying Prevention Month, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and National Youth Substance Prevention Month. These critical observances resonate deeply with our commitment to promoting safer and healthier communities for our youth. Did you know that 25% of Milwaukee youth have reported being bullied, 1 in 4 have witness domestic violence in their homes, and approximately 30% have engaged in substance use? Our neighborhood teams work diligently and thoughtfully to educate communities via prevention work. This month, teams have engaged youth through conversations about Anti Bullying during the Youth Council Meeting and sharing a Safe & Sound Anti-Bullying FAQ. In addition, District 2 has started a new session of our Youth Preventing Violence (YPV) program. This program guides youth in understanding the crucial intersection between substance use and violence and how to make positive choices for their own lives and inspire those around them to do the same. Simultaneously, our District 5 team, in collaboration with MPD and the Sojourner Family Peace Center created a domestic violence PSA. We also hosted National Prescription Drug Take Back Days in each of our 5 priority districts across the City of Milwaukee on October 28th.

**NATIONAL
BULLYING
MONTH**

**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
MONTH**

**YOUTH
SUBSTANCE
PREVENTION
MONTH**

[LEARN MORE](#)



SAFE & SOUND RESOURCES: STARTING A BLOCK CLUB

Starting a block club can be a great way to foster a sense of community and improve the safety and quality of life in your neighborhood.

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