



Safe & Sound December 2022 E-Newsletter



A Message From Our Executive Director



Greetings neighbors,

I made the mistake of blinking because the whole year seemed to flash by. I think I say it every month that I'm shocked it's the end of another month and this month is certainly no exception. On the topic of things, we can't believe happened – WE MOVED Y'ALL! It's been a long time coming, and maybe we have an "Excuse our Dust" sign out as the final touches get added, but we



are here. We can finally say “It’s a beautiful day in OUR neighborhood!” To commemorate our move into the Sherman Park neighborhood, Safe & Sound hosted a Ribbon Cutting and invited members of the community and local partners to participate in this momentous occasion.

Special thanks Forward Community Investments and our very own Mayor Cavalier Johnson for joining me at the podium with celebratory remarks and literally assisting me with cutting the ribbon to our new space. I have an immense gratitude for our Board of Directors and our entire team for the relentless efforts to help us reach this milestone. I would be remised if I didn’t offer accolades to JCP Construction and DreamBuilders (for seeing our vision and making it happen! We’ve been in this work together now for over a year and they have been remarkable partners on this project. We also extend thanks to the Milwaukee Bucks for their generous donation to support the renovations of our

community space as a part of the NBA Legacy Project.

This marks the first time our organization has been headquartered on our own and it is certainly a BIG DEAL for our organization and our next chapter. Our goal is to leverage this space to deepen our connections with residents to create space for thoughtful community conversations and neighborhood empowerment training. Our building will assist us with having a welcoming venue to build upon our focus of collective impact.

And there’s MORE! Last month we welcomed Toria Monroe to our Executive Leadership Team as our new Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships. Toria comes to us with years of experience in development and programming from the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee. She has strong connections to our community, is an excellent collaborator, and has made great strides to build strong partnerships with corporations, foundations, and stakeholders. We are so excited for her to jump right in!

And finally, just a short week ago we hosted our Annual Event: A Night to Unite: The Power of Community at Gather in the Deer District. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser and basketball game watch party. It truly was a night to shine a spotlight on unsung heroes who are a part of this work who help us deliver our mission every day. We’ve learned over the years that this work cannot be done without collaboration and partnership, and we are intentional to ensure that we recognize those residents and youth leaders and stakeholders who have joined us in this work. Thank you to all our sponsors and attendees for your continued efforts in supporting our mission of safe and empowered neighborhoods for all of Milwaukee. Even though the game didn’t go the way we hoped, we hope everyone had a great time cheering on the Bucks because we know we did! It’s nights like these that make us love our City a little harder.

The end of the year is a time of great reflection. As I wrap up the last of my 2022 to-do list and start on the 2023 list, I can’t help but feel an overwhelming sense of pride for what we have done together this year and joy for what I know is possible for the next one. I’ve spent much time over the past few weeks to stop and appreciate the small things. A resident in Westlawn told me recently that every win is a win and that a part of encouraging ourselves is to be able to recognize that small steps are still steps. I’m really appreciative of our small but mighty team and how much they have balanced this year to help us accomplish some amazing outputs of engagement, service, and connections. They really are the rock stars of Safe & Sound. When we take pause and remind ourselves how far we’ve come, it reminds us where we’re headed. I like where we’re headed, and I can’t wait to see what 2023 has in store for us!

I hope you all have a safe and sound holiday! We will see you next year!

Warmest Regards,

Bridget Whitaker

P.S.

Did you know 2023 will be the Silver Jubilee for Safe & Sound? That's right, we're turning 25! We are gearing up for an amazing year of celebration – I'm super excited to share a sneak peek of what we've been working on!

25th Anniversary Compilation Video!



Thank you to WISN 12 NEWS and Nō Studios for hosting Bridget to discuss how we are working together with Milwaukee residents and community partners to build safe and empowered neighborhoods. Check out her interview below!

WISN12 Community Curated Interview

"At Safe & Sound, resident and youth engagement, partnership development, and resource connecting is at the heart of what we do."

View more upcoming events on our Safe & Sound event calendar here!



Community Organizer

We are currently hiring two community organizers. One team is in need of a bilingual organizer who speaks Spanish.

The Community Organizer at Safe & Sound is one part of a three-part strategy aimed at building collective efficacy in neighborhoods to create safer communities. Our community organizers meet residents on their front porches and at community meetings, rebuilding social networks and facilitating connections to resources to make neighborhoods safer

and stronger. Community organizers work with residents to amplify their voices by helping to implement strategies of crime prevention. A critical part of the organizing function is to build community-police relationships by serving as a liaison between residents and law enforcement providing two-way communication (prioritizing and advocating for neighborhood safety priorities within the district). Community Organizers need to operate successfully when working independently and as a member of the team.

Click [here](#) for full job description.

Youth Organizer

The Youth Organizer at Safe & Sound is one part of a three-part strategy aimed at building collective efficacy in neighborhoods to create safer communities. The Youth Organizer focuses on engaging youth in positive activities in the community, providing project-based opportunities for creativity and leadership development. Youth Organizers work with youth to amplify their voices by helping to implement strategies of crime prevention. A critical part of the organizing function is to build community-police relationships by serving as a liaison between youth and law enforcement providing two-way communication (prioritizing and advocating for neighborhood safety priorities within the district). Youth Organizers need to operate successfully when working independently and as a member of the team.

Click [here](#) for full job description.

Neighborhood Safety Coordinator

The Neighborhood Safety Coordinator (NSC) serves as a liaison between City of Milwaukee residents living in the assigned Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) districts and various law-enforcement, other government agencies, and the Assistant District Attorneys serving as Community Partners in these neighborhoods. The NSC works with Safe & Sound staff, the Community Partners, the MPD and community-based organizations planning and coordinating community forums, landlord meetings, block watch meetings and community collaborations that orient residents, families and businesses on the nuisance abatement process. The NSC also provides resources and advocacy to encourage crime prevention, gang prevention and crime awareness. The NSC is tasked with information gathering, organization and reporting leading to the abatement of Community Partnership Unit (CPU) reported nuisances that arise in and around properties located within the assigned Milwaukee Police District.

Click [here](#) for full job description.

Racine Job Openings

If you haven't heard the good news, Safe & Sound is expanding to Racine! We are currently hiring a Neighborhood team, including a Community Organizer, Neighborhood Safety Coordinator, and Youth Organizers. See the job descriptions below.

Youth Organizer

Community Organizer

Neighborhood Safety Coordinator

Monthly Giving Campaign

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Join our Monthly Giving Campaign!

Visit safesound.org/donate



SAFE & SOUND

Safe & Sound is committed to our mission of uniting residents, youth, law enforcement and community resources to build safe and empowered neighborhoods. One of the most important things we need to make that happen is you!

You can show your support and help us work toward our vision of a safe neighborhood for everyone in Milwaukee by becoming a Community Builder, one of monthly giving supporters!

Your ongoing and sustaining support enables us to plan out programs for the year and know that our essential work will continue.

Gifts of all sizes make a difference!

Donate Now to Support Our Work!



SAFE & SOUND

Check out our [website](#) and social media outlets to stay up to date with Safe & Sound and for details about how you can help us and the residents we serve!



safesound.org

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