

[View this email in your browser](#)



SAFE & SOUND

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings!

Depending on when you are reading this - it might be an unseasonably warm and sunny day or perhaps a bit of a chill from a morning snow fall - in either case we hope that you have been Safe & Sound this month. Here's a little snippet of our wins!

The month of February has been a great time to amplify the roots of Black American History while at the also focusing on the future of Black America. Shouts out to the many young people who participated in the Gamma Pi Sigma 2024 Black History Quiz Bowl. The event celebrated the study of Black excellence while creating a fun and

engaging space for families to think about all the ways in which Black culture has influenced great leaders. Special thanks to former Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes who spoke to the students in attendance about how important it is to help one another and support the collective efforts of success.

This month Safe & Sound was honored to be recognized by the Greater Milwaukee Urban League during their annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Equal Opportunity Day Awards Luncheon. Receiving an award for our work in community advocacy around homeownership is a shared win with our partners: Acts Housing and US Bank. In this work, we are a member organization of US Bank's Access Home program. A program that is intentional about increasing home ownership for African American families in the city. To have our efforts noticed and valued is truly a testament to the organizers on our team who help ensure that our outreach is focused on encouraging residents to consider the benefits of home ownership.

And finally, we rounded out the month by attending Alderman Mark Chamber's Black History Month Power Hour at City Hall where our team was able to network with fellow stakeholders who have a shared vision for working together across so various sectors to ensure that our city is a great place to live, work and play.

As a nonprofit leader, I am inspired daily by the residents who reach out to us about wanting to volunteer and be engaged in creating a city that is safer. At a recent Public Safety Listening Session at Evolve Church, I was able to hear from passionate neighbors who wanted to find ways to get others involved in the progress they are seeing with local community-based organizations (some even volunteering to join us in neighborhood community outreach). During a recent Intergenerational Talking Circle at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society with WestCare, we heard young people express a relief that they were feeling heard and seen in spaces that hadn't always been welcoming. It was at the very end of our "Love is Respect" Teen Dating Violence Prevention Workshop that a parent said, "these are the conversations that [prevent] us from normalizing things that hurt; you can't walk away from discussions like this without feeling empowered by the new resources you've learned about."

Our Safe & Sound team has dedicated the past few weeks to filling into our cups by adding new professional development tools that will make us better friends to our neighbors and partners. We hope that you will continue to tap into our team for information about how residents can get involved, how youth can plug in to positive programming and how partners can do their part to support the momentum of our progress. We have so much in store for Milwaukee & Racine in the year ahead - I look forward to seeing YOU in community!

To learn more - please consider joining me for Coffee w/ Safe & Sound on March 19th from 7:30AM - 11:30AM at Safe & Sound (4422 W. Leon Terrace).

Bridget Whitaker, ED



COFFEE WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Join our Executive Director at our Headquarters (4422 W. Leon Terrace) over a cup of coffee and share your thoughts on our work.

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday

March 19th

7:30 AM - 11:30AM

**4422 W. Leon Terrace
Milwaukee, WI 53216**



**Bridget Whitaker
Executive Director**

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month "Love Is Respect" Workshop

On Saturday, February 24th - Safe & Sound hosted a Teen Dating Violence Awareness Workshop entitled: Love Is Respect. Youth and parent attendees spent time discussing definitions of healthy and unhealthy relationships. Teens were able to express how often their dating relationships are not taken seriously by adults and this causes them to withhold information about instances of heartbreak and sometimes unsafe situations. Parents were able to listen as students provided examples of the various forms of abuse that were highlighted (emotional, physical, sexual and digital).

The goal of the workshop was to encourage teens to seek out support when a partner is behaving in ways that were noted as "red flags" and to be honest with friends who might also be experiencing similar toxic relationships. The group shared out many testimonials about stories that ended tragically when teens suffered in silence because they were too embarrassed to ask for help. We hope to continue these teen dating conversations during your Youth Preventing Violence workshops.

Please reach out to a member of the Safe & Sound team if we can bring a presentation to your youth group (in the classroom, church group, youth center or mentorship program). Shouts out to our presenter - Christiana Robinson, Mental Health Professional - for guiding the conversation.

HEAR FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Meet Barbara Smith!

Barbara is a resident leader in the Amani Neighborhood and a former Safe & Sound Board member.

As a resident in the Amani Neighborhood over the past 20 years, Barbara is most proud of the connections that she has with her neighbors. They are concerned about each other, the community at large, and have a heart especially for the senior residents.



Barbara is inspired to serve as a senior resident because of her mother. Her mother is a senior resident who may not always have access to all of the resources that are being advertised or the meetings that folks are invited to attend. Because she has the time and the resources, Barbara makes sure to stay engaged with the community and to attend meetings and bring that information back to the senior residents. She also helps senior residents with filling out paperwork and accompanies them to meetings. She treasures her role as an advocate for senior residents and ensures that those she assists understand the information they are receiving.

Her relationship with Safe & Sound runs deeper than just the door to door conversations. As a long-time resident leader and former Board member, she has developed intimate relationships with Safe & Sound staff members. In fact, it was through her work with Safe & Sound that she came to see herself as a resident leader. Her leadership has grown through her ability to take advantage of the indirect leadership trainings, such as the Collective Impact training, that have brought out leadership skills and qualities that she may not have otherwise tapped into.

Barbara notes that the priority areas of focus for the Amani neighborhood are security, housing & economic development, education, and family wellbeing. She believes that "the harvest is ripe but the laborers are few" and would like to see more investment into the neighborhood and increased resident engagement to prevent burnout among the current resident leaders.

Despite these challenges, Barbara says that "Amani is and always has been a great neighborhood." Amani neighborhood residents are actively trying to change the stereotype for the 53206 neighborhood from the resident level on up and resident leaders are a key part of this narrative shift. While she states that being a resident leader is not easy, Barbara recognizes the positive impact that she has on the neighborhood and that is enough affirmation for her.

Join us in thanking Barbara for her leadership!!

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT - DISTRICT 5



District 5 continues to work with the residents, youth, law enforcement, and community partners in the **Harambee and Amani neighborhoods**.

During Q1, the team facilitated Safe & Sound's Youth Preventing Violence (YPV) training at Andrew Douglass Middle School. They also supported Data Chats at Auer Avenue's Community School.

On Wednesday, Jan 17th, D5 Neighborhood Organizers facilitated Safe & Sound's YPV programming at Andrew Douglas Middle School in Milwaukee's Harambee neighborhood. Through our partnership with MPS, Neighborhood Organizers speak to the youth about methods of preventing violence in their communities, social circles, and day-to-day lives. Shy at first, the youth eventually grew to be humorous, insightful and full of heart and profundity. They shared urgent concerns about violence of all kinds, including physical and gun violence, and its effects on youth, families, and the community in general. In response to their concerns, we encouraged them to think of causes and solutions to the violence happening around them as well as position themselves as leaders who are committed to avoiding and preventing violence. In the end, we empowered youth to be agents of change for peace and nonviolence in both their neighborhood and the Greater Milwaukee Area.

On Friday, Jan 19th, D5 Neighborhood Organizers attended Auer Avenue Community School's Data Chats in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood. Data Chats are a monthly event held at Auer Ave. to support the success of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students who are trailing behind in their standardized reading test scores. More than just a conversation about test scores, these Data Chats provide a space for student to reflect on their goals and current obstacles to their success. Safe & Sound has made a considerable impact in the lives of these students as those who work with Safe & Sound staff members have increased their test scores. The Data Chat initiative is an effort to combat the school to prison pipeline. We know that students who are scholastically engaged are much less likely to engage in criminality as they grow older, contributing to safer and more empowered neighborhoods.

We enjoy our time working with youth to build safer and more empowered neighborhoods. Do not hesitate to reach out to us, connect us with your school, or connect us to a parent coordinator if you would like us to support your youth empowerment efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us for an intergenerational conversation.

Let's share our stories and experiences, and learn from each other in a welcoming and inclusive space. All ages welcome.

Feb 29th , 2024 5:45pm-8:00pm

**Where - Wisconsin Black Historical Society
2620 W Center St Milwaukee, WI 53206**

Food , Beverages & Transportation Provided

Sign up link





Safe & Sound

RESIDENT LEADER TRAINING



Facilitator:
Teneen Rucker,
Program Manager
Safe & Sound

*Nurturing
Grassroots
Leaders*

*Space is limited
to 40 people.
Register today!*



Every Wed. starting Feb.21
from **6PM-8PM**
at Safe & Sound
4422 W. Leon Terrace
Milwaukee, WI 53216

*In 6 Weeks You Will Learn
How To:*

- Establish a Block Club
- Hold Monthly Meetings
- Conduct Outreach
- Use the City's Mobile App
- Plan Events that Empower the Neighborhood



REGISTER AT:
[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/A13FEB8XAP](https://forms.office.com/R/A13FEB8XAP)

4422 W Leon Terrace Milwaukee, WI 53216
www.safesound.org

DONATE TODAY



Copyright (C) 2024 Safe & Sound. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)