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GREETINGS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings!

There is an African proverb that says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." As we step into a new spring season - I think about this proverbial wisdom and how it applies to Safe & Sound's mission and framework for neighborhood safety.

I think about how grateful I am that Safe & Sound has the support and collaboration of our community partners as well as so many residents who have championed the idea of taking on leadership roles within their own neighborhoods. I think about how thankful we are for our board members, donors, and community partners. And, I think

about how we have continued to shift the perceptions about safety because of all of you.

Our mission, our commitment to our residents, our dedication to young people, and our core values have continued to guide our work. As a leader at the helm of this organization, I have taken a deliberate step back to evaluate where we are after 25 years and where we are going. I remain steadfast in the purpose of our work, but took a more focused and intentional approach to what it means to strengthen our partnerships and relationships. I look to convene more opportunities for community brainstorming, resident dinner dialogues, youth listening circles and non-profit partner action meetings to help ensure that we don't stray far from the mark of being a true listening ear to the needs of those we serve. I am hopeful that we will continue dismantling silos that limit our ability to go further - deeper - together. The more that we learn from one another and create space to accomplish more meaningful work together, the closer we get to achieving a level of neighborhood safety that allows us to reimagine how to better serve others. I'm counting on all our friends reading this newsletter to say YES when you receive an invite to join us in our programming and engagement events. We need your voice, your presence, your volunteerism and yes, your financial support.

Safe & Sound has always understood the importance of togetherness. The team here works tirelessly and passionately to disseminate information (directly to front porches), raise awareness, engage in non-profit advocacy initiatives, and amplify the voices of those who entrust us to tell the stories of where there is great need. Our hashtag this year was aimed at being deliverers of hope to our priority neighborhoods. We've quietly began calling ourselves the #NeighborhoodHopeDealers because our NorthStar is truly aimed at using our flexibility as a collaborative problem solver to build collective impact. With the help of our board, our leadership team, our partners, our staff, and the growing number of resident leaders - we will continue to ensure that we will create a safe neighborhood for all.

I'm still waiting on my superpowers from the solar eclipse - in the meantime, I'll keep leaning into what it means to be a trusted partner and servant leader.

You are personally invited to join us for two events that kick off our #Summerof Hope on Saturday, June 8th and our Annual Swing Fore Neighborhood Safety golf fundraiser on June 13th. This is the part where you say YES 😊

Bridget Whitaker, ED



Event Chairs:

Tyler Briggs & Adam Finkel

Swing Fore Neighborhood Safety

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Dretzka Park Golf Course

12020 W Bradley Rd
Milwaukee, WI 53224



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Light & Unite Red Week

Each year, more than 50 partners across Milwaukee County join forces for Light & Unite Red Week to promote healthy, drug- and alcohol-free living and support our community members who are improving their lives by remaining free of substance use and achieving holistic wellness. Safe & Sound is proud to be a continued partner helping to shine a light on the importance of prevention.

Last month, the Safe & Sound hosted two events during the week to get families involved in both education, awareness and engagement around the importance of the wellness. To begin the week, we hosted a Prevention Family Feud Trivia Night where

parents and children had some serious conversations about the dangers of substance misuse. We used some cool platforms to help create a competitive activity aimed at learning how much we already understand and how much we can still learn about how children have access to harmful drugs. Later in the week, we hosted a Paint & Sip Responsibly event that allowed residents and youth to express themselves with artistic fun of painting beautiful pictures of people, places and things that bring them joy (a great reminder when it's necessary to have a coping mechanism). During the evening our team mixed some mocktails to demonstrate how delicious and refreshing a beverage could be without alcohol. We were excited to see so many members of the Milwaukee community join us for our programming and hope that we will be able to continue to host prevention programming throughout our neighborhoods.

Light & Unite Red promotes community-wide prevention education and is led by the RISE Drug Free MKE coalition, formerly the Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (MCSAP). Community organizations, local health departments, government entities, and other allies work together to shine a light on the dangers of substance use and to unite the Milwaukee community to engage in prevention, encourage treatment and support recovery throughout the year. This year's theme is Ignite Hope, Inspire Community, Rise Together.

We ended the week with our entire team wearing RED to show our support and solidarity with RISE Drug Free MKE Light & Unite week. Small actions can make a big difference. We are proud to come together as a community with a collection of partners to shine a light on the dangers of substance misuse affecting our city. We hope to amplify the message that Prevention Works!!

HEAR FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Meet Blaque Robinson!

Blaque (they/them) is our new Deputy Director - Strategic Partnerships.

Blaque was born and raised in Milwaukee and grew up in the Sherman Park and Bradley Estate neighborhoods. They attended Golda Meir Elementary and Middle School and the University School of Milwaukee for high school. After high school, Blaque relocated to the South to complete their undergraduate and graduate degrees in Sociology.



Blaque became interested in Sociology after experiencing, first hand, the effects of segregation within Milwaukee, a problem they still believe is negatively impacting our city. Milwaukee is often looked at as one of the places where Black people are least likely to thrive and that is a trend that they wanted to both understand and change. Segregation is an underlying factor impacting so much of the fabric of our city life from housing to crime to business development.

That being said, what they love most about Milwaukee is the revitalization of historic Black neighborhoods and areas of commerce. They enjoy frequenting businesses along MLK Drive such as Honeybee Sage & Wellness, Mi Casa Su Cafe, and Rise & Grind Cafe. There is so much support that the city is offering to Black businesses to help them grow and thrive and that has been such an inspiration.

Blaque has always wanted to be a part of the change they want to see in the world and that has passion impacted both their choice of study as well as the jobs they have chosen. Thus, Blaque's first "adult job" was as a Coordinator at EMERGE Fellowship, a non-profit organization in Houston, TX. The mission of EMERGE Fellowship is to empower and equip high achieving students from low-income communities to apply to, thrive at and graduate from the nation's best colleges. As a first-generation college student, the mission of this organization resonated deeply with them along with their passion to either pursue academia or become a non-profit professional. This fast-paced, start-up environment was perfect for them to rapidly learn and grow within the non-profit management space.

Now, they continue this journey at Safe & Sound, an organization that aligns with an old passion for improving Milwaukee. They chose to work at Safe & Sound because they believe in the power of community to impact systems-level change. They said, "It is important for us to empower our communities to know that changing their little corner of the world can contribute to change on a broader scale. That work starts by bringing communities together, resource-sharing, and making commitments to help build safer and more empowered neighborhoods."

In their free time, Blaque loves to work on 500 or 1000 piece puzzles, watch the latest show on TLC (their guilty pleasure is the 90 Day Fiancé Universe), and hang out with their chosen family.

Join us in welcoming Blaque to their new role!!



Meet William Olivier!

William Olivier (he/him) is a recent graduate of the 3rd Resident Leadership Training Cohort. A former Safe & Sound Program Director, William has recently taken on a role as a leader within his community and chose to participate in the program to gain more skills to increase his effectiveness.

William grew up in the Harambee and Brewers Hill neighborhoods and currently resides in the Old North Milwaukee Neighborhood. It is important for him to serve as a Resident Leader because he has found that a lot of the residents who are engaged and come to association, block meetings, and crime and safety meetings tend to skew towards elders and retirees. He wants to bring a younger and more energetic presence to neighborhood leadership. Moreover, he believes that it's unsustainable to expect our elders to carry the torch for neighborhood safety and that most of the lift should be done by a younger demographic.

While the neighborhood has faced challenges with youth engaging in arson and vandalism, he is proud of the sense of cohesion within the neighborhood. Furthermore, he appreciates Safe & Sound's involvement in every neighborhood association meeting and the support and resources that have been shared.

Olivier enrolled in the Resident Leadership Training course because, although he had worked in community development for years, he had never had any formal training on what it meant to be a Resident Leader. During the program, he was able to connect with several residents and walked away with tangible tools such as forms to get resident signatures and flyer templates. He learned about differences in elected officials and which office is most appropriate for each need. As a result of the program, he has plans to play the Civic BINGO game at the next resident meeting and wants to put together a resource page about state-level contacts for needs that arise in the community.

We are grateful to William for participating in this cohort and cannot wait to see where his resident leadership will take him.



Safe & Sound Resident Leader Training



Graduation Ceremony



COMMUNITY UPDATES



Recently, the Mayor began a City-Wide Block Watch Council. We talked with Todd Miller, one of our newest Board members and members of the Mayor's cabinet, about the initiative and how the Mayor envisions that it will help our city.

The City-Wide Block Watch Council is a reinvigoration of a previous City Wide Block Watch organized by MPD from 2014 - 2016. In this new iteration, the Mayor is focused on empowering Block Watches and associations. Instead of only focusing on public safety, he wants to embody a holistic approach to healthy neighborhoods. Thus, those in the Council will not only work with MPD, they will also work with various City representatives to learn more about what the City does. This is a great opportunity for the Mayor's office to hear from residents about what they are seeing and hearing on the ground level.

While this Council is organized by the Mayor's office, they want individuals, rather than city officials, to lead the effort. They intend to have one of the Block Watch Captains serve as the chair of the committee.

This effort is part of the Mayor's public safety plan where he wants to hone in on making Milwaukee a safe place to live, work, and visit. There is a need to activate block watches across the city because we know that neighborhoods that have active block watches and/or neighborhood associations are able to thrive and address issues a little faster than those who do not. This is also an effort for the Mayor to have a constant connection with residents and hear their concerns outside of election time.

To form the council, the Mayor's Office requested key partners, including Safe & Sound, suggest block watch captains that they felt would be an asset to the council. While the Council is closed for additional participation, if you would be interested in participating please reach out to the Mayor's office to get connected with other important initiatives happening in the city.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT - DISTRICT 4



District 4 continues to work with the residents, youth, law enforcement, and community partners in the **Westlawn**. During Q2, The district 4 team broke ground in their new neighborhood area **Little Menomonee River Parkway**.

In March, the newly formed district 4 team met with the Principal and Parent Coordinator at Maple Tree Elementary School, located in Little Menomonee River Parkway, to discuss programming ideas.

In April, the district 4 team was able to facilitate their first programming session at Maple Tree School. The team's first session focused on bullying, an issue both the parent coordinator and teachers expressed was a huge concern throughout the school. The great turnout for the event made it a great success!

Throughout Q2, the D4 team has been able to conduct several hours of outreach in the Little Menomonee River Parkway, speaking to local businesses as well as faith-based organizations. They are looking forward to continuing their work in the new neighborhood and we are looking forward to the new connections and partnerships that will emerge.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us for an intergenerational conversation.

“The primary mission of I.T.C is to Uplift the voices of the unheard & bridge the gap by engaging all generations to have discussions based on topics that directly relate to Milwaukee communities.”

April 24th 5:00pm-8:00pm

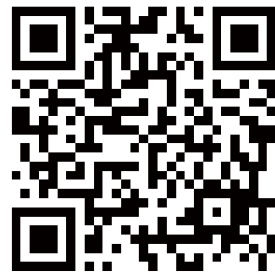
Where - Washington high school

2525 N Sherman Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53210

Food , Beverages & Transportation Provided

For more info contact

Venus 414-902-0788 or Chris 414-374-6765



PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY



APRIL 27, 2024

DISTRICT 2

CHRIST ST. PETERS (PARKING LOT)

2137 W. GREENFIELD AVE

11:00AM - 2:00PM

DISTRICT 3

CHERRY COURT

1525 N. 24TH ST

10:00AM - 1:00PM

DISTRICT 4

SAM'S CLUB

8050 N. 124TH ST

10:00AM - 2:00PM

DISTRICT 5

WALGREENS

2826 N DOCTOR M.L.K DR

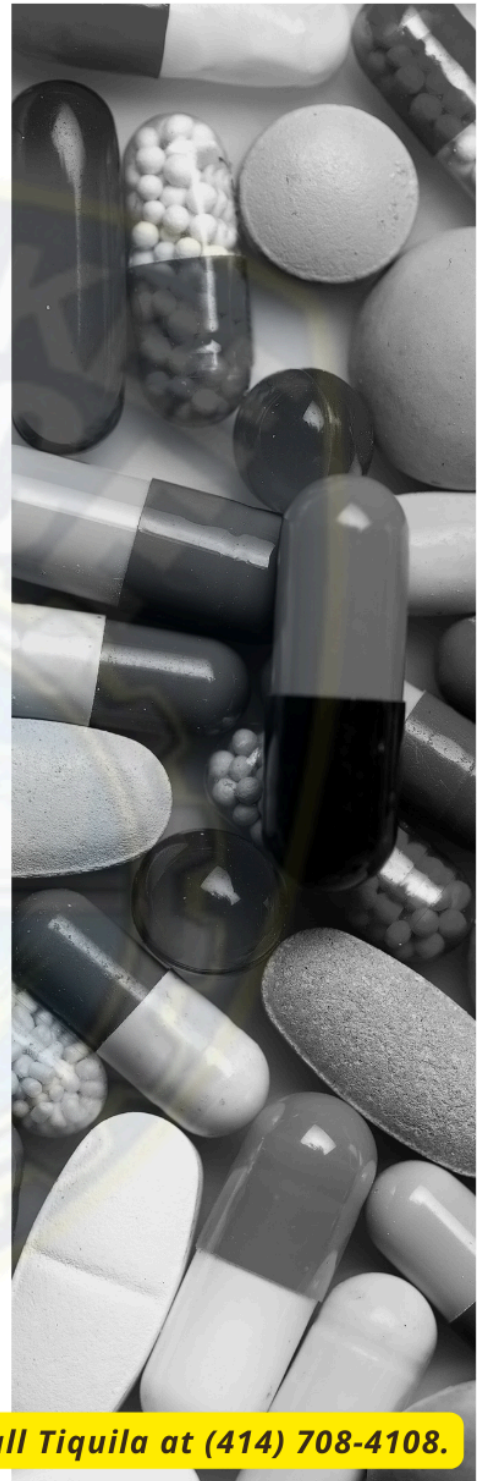
10:00AM - 1:00PM

DISTRICT 7

WALGREENS

7600 W. CAPITOL DR.

10:00AM - 2:00PM



For more info call Tiquila at (414) 708-4108.

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
ACCEPTANCE!!



Tyler Odeneal
Tin House Summer Writing
Fellowship

Teneen Rucker
Project LEAD

DONATE TODAY

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