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SAFE & SOUND

JULY NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello Friends,

I hope you are having a fantastic summer! It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through July. It sure has been a busy summer around town and Safe & Sound has been hard at work delivering on our mission of building safe and empowered neighborhoods. I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the work we have undertaken this summer.

Over the past few weeks (and months), I have had the opportunity to visit in person with our many residents during events and happenings around the city: from block parties, to block club meetings, to Crime & Safety monthly district events when the opportunity presents itself. After each visit, I find myself at a loss for words to describe how proud I am of the hard work and intentional efforts of Resident Leaders who are investing into their communities every day. I've met residents who are taking the lead on managing community gardens, youth leaders who are serving as peer mediators at local youth centers, some residents who see themselves as the champions of safer streets, to every day residents organizing gatherings amongst neighbors on their block. In my connections, I am reminded over and over that we are not absent of neighborhood changemakers. Witnessing the acts of love of those who make it their business to be the change they want to see inspires me to listen in when residents highlight the role they want and need Safe & Sound to play. In both Milwaukee and Racine, we strive to be a connector of resources, a backbone organization for collective impact and an advocate for beloved community. There are no lone heroes in strengthening the safety of families, but together we build a mighty fortress of willing participants who care about the future.

I've also been honored to see the growth of our team making great strides in building new relationships. Traditionally our priority neighborhoods have been consistent in our district map outlines, but this year we've introduced ourselves to NSP areas for the City of Milwaukee where we've been the new kid on the block. We don't take that introduction lightly. From front porch conversations, to activating green spaces with neighborhood popups, we've been working overtime to ensure that residents know our team and are clear about how they can leverage our resources to enhance the great work already happening. To our new neighbors in Little Menomonee Parkway (NSP 19), Lincoln Park (NSP 3) and United Community (NSP 4) we want to become a trusted partner that you come to rely upon for all things neighborhood safety. We know that so much of who we are is about relationships and accountability. We are embarking upon the challenge of understanding your needs and fulfilling our commitment to all things working together for the good.

This month's newsletter will provide a snapshot of the Safe& Sound team serving front in center in a variety of ways that speak to the diversity of our neighborhoods. From our Safe Summer Kick off, to our golf outing, to our Wear Orange Weekend and door-to-door outreach that happens weekly. I'm so proud of the 24 people that make up our collective here at Safe & Sound and the tireless efforts they contribute to make a difference to those residents and youth and community partners who lean on us most. It is my strategic goal that we will continue to advance & grow our organization in such a way that makes the quality of life better for all. I look forward

to sharing more of the meaningful impact that gets highlighted in our shared stories and wins.

With (beaming) Pride,
Bridget Whitaker, ED



SAFE & SOUND

SAFER. STRONGER. TOGETHER.



OCT. 4TH, 2024



WISCONSIN CLUB

900 W WISCONSIN AVE, MILWAUKEE, WI 53233

Registration: 7AM Program and Awards: 8AM

EVENT CHAIRS:



Gatlin Dresidan
Boys & Girls Club



Camilla Bell-Sparks
St. Kate Arts Hotel

Presenting Sponsor



HEAR FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Meet Camilla Bell-Sparks!

Camilla recently joined Safe & Sound's Board of Directors. She is the property human resources director at the St. Kate Arts Hotel. In her role, she is "all things HR" as it relates to employee relations, recruitment, recognition programs, fundraising, training and development.



She began to learn about Safe & Sound through her connection to Bridget, Executive Director, and Teneen, Program Manager. She saw consistent social media posts about the work that Safe & Sound was doing and decided it was something she wanted to be a part of because she is passionate about fostering change within the community. Her first interactions with Safe & Sound's work was during her time as the HR Manager at Colectivo. Unhoused persons were frequenting the property and she reached out to Teneen who was able to connect her to MPD to help identify strategies to deal with the situation. As a result of that interaction, she was able to see how Safe & Sound's role as a mediator between the community and police helps to bring resolve.

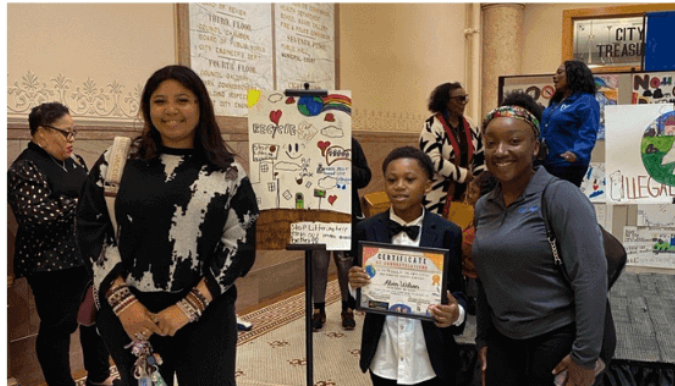
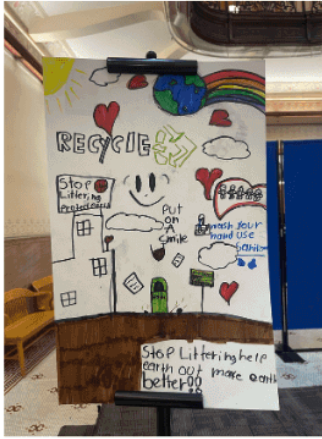
The first event that Camilla attended was this year's Swing Fore Safety Golf Event. She was happy to see the passion that people have for the organization whether they were golfing for a purpose or bidding on items for the silent auction. She was pleased to see that people are listening and know that Safe & Sound needs to exist.

As a new Board Member, Camilla is most excited to get to work on Safe & Sound various initiatives! She is also enthusiastic about our Racine location, the extension of that contract, and hopes that Safe & Sound might spread to other counties. When asked about the impact she would like to have on the organization, Camilla says, "I will be able to look at Safe & Sound from the standpoint of a community member and provide feedback on what is impactful and areas that need improvement."

Camilla has spent her life giving back to the community, donating her time back to where it is most needed and impactful. She believes that, while Milwaukee has its challenges, Safe & Sound being available to residents shows them that they have outlets they can use to address issues that are pressing to them.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

ANTI LITTERING/ILLEGAL DUMPING CAMPAIGN



On May 16th, the D5 team collaborated with the Department of Neighborhood Services to host the Anti-Litter and Illegal Dumping ceremony. At this event, four students from Milwaukee Public Schools, along with their individual schools from Districts 2,3, 4, and 5 were awarded top prizes for the anti-litter and illegal dumping poster contest. There were multiple city representatives in attendance to support the initiative as well, including Stephanie Samarripa, the Community Outreach Program Liaison for the Department of Neighborhood Services, who collaborated with Safe & Sound to craft the initiative and to roll out the ceremony. The event featured local news media interviewing student winners of the poster contest as well as they were saluted by Mayor Cavalier and alderpersons from the represented districts throughout Milwaukee.

SAFE SUMMER KICKOFF



On Saturday, June 8th, the Safe & Sound Team, in collaboration with Marquette University, hosted a vibrant Juneteenth Kickoff event centered on amplifying youth voices and providing resources to families for a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Youth and their families were able to sign the Safe Summer Pledge and visit partners such as the Milwaukee Library and Girl Scouts. Attendees explored various opportunities provided by our partners while enjoying the lively atmosphere with Youth MCs, drawing and coloring activities, and delicious hamburgers and hotdogs.

Our Intergenerational Talking Circles team added to the fun by hosting a 'Versus' battle of classic cookout songs, engaging the crowd in selecting the best cookout ham. The event was a resounding success, drawing a large turnout from the community and embodying our mission as Neighborhood Hope Dealers.

We are grateful for the chance to share resources with our community and host this 2nd Annual Safe Summer Kickoff Event at our Headquarters. This celebration truly highlighted our commitment to bringing hope and joy to the City of Milwaukee.

WEAR ORANGE WEEKEND

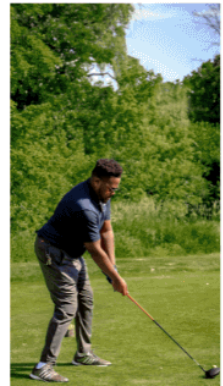


Wear Orange Weekend took place from Friday June 7th - Sunday June 9th. This weekend was a partnership between Safe& Sound, WAVE Educational Fund, MOMS Demand Action, and the Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence. On Friday night, we held a candlelight vigil for families who had been impacted by Gun Violence. Several community chaplains and pastors spoke words of peace and hope over the congregation that was assembled.

On Saturday, we gathered in the morning for a morning press conference and a peace walk. We were joined by Mayor Johnson who declared June 7th - June 9th, 2024 Wear Orange Weekend. After the press conference concluded we handed out yard signs to all of those in attendance. In addition, community members were able to sign the Safe Summer Pledge. Finally, On Sunday, community members participated in a drive-thru memorial.

We want to thank Mayor Johnson for attending, speaking, and declaring the weekend Wear Orange Weekend. We'd also like to thank community members for bringing an setting up their loved ones' picture yard signs, community partners for the countless hours spent planning the weekend, those in attendance for taking the Safe Summer Pledge, those who created a space for gun violence survivors to shares their stories on the Digital Memorial, everyone for sending the message loud and clear that gun violence is a public health crisis and for being a strong presence in a community that is still trying to heal.

4th ANNUAL SWING FORE SAFETY GOLF OUTING



Thank you to all our sponsors and participants who made our 4th Annual Swing Fore Safety Golf Outing a success! With your help we were able to raise over \$20,000 to help further our mission of building safe& empowered neighborhoods in Milwaukee & Racine.

The weather was beautiful, the scores were low, and fun was had! An amazing day with awesome Neighborhood Changemakers.

We hope to see you on the course next year. To reserve your spot contact Blaque Robinson (blaque@safesound.org).

We'd like to thank our presenting sponsor Jack and Jill of America as well as our sponsors RBC Wealth, US Bank, PNC Bank, Husch Blackwell, Reilly, Penner and Benton LLP, First Business Bank and Paradise Memorial Funeral Home. We'd also like to thank Adam Finkel and Tyler Briggs for chairing the event and Camilla Bell-Sparks and Anne Bobb for volunteering at the event.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT - DISTRICT 2



On Saturday, May 18th, 2024, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Safe & Sound-District 2 hosted The Negativity of Freedom event at Clarke Square Park. Safe & Sound-District 2 celebrated Sebastian Rubalcava our first place 2023 Safe Neighborhood Essay Contest Winner. Sebastian won a cash prize and was able to create an event supported by Safe & Sound-District 2 Neighborhood Organizers to celebrate his essay.

Sebastian's event was held in May to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month. Sebastian explained that the Negativity of Freedom event title comes from keeping a negative mindset and having the freedom to express yourself by speaking about it. Sebastian emphasized the importance of becoming self-aware and taking responsibility to be greater in peace of mind, inner peace, and healing from wounds. In addition to community partners handing out resources focused on mental health, the event also included speakers, activities, food, raffles and more.

On Friday June 14th, 2024, Milwaukee Police Department and Safe & Sound-District 2 hosted the 2nd Annual Ciclovía event from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. It started at 4th Street on Lincoln Avenue and ended at MKE Urban Stables located on 1st Street on Lincoln Avenue. Ciclovía, which means "cycleway" in Spanish. The event originated in Latin America and inspired cities worldwide to close streets to automobiles and promote healthy lifestyles. The 2nd Annual Ciclovía event was filled with fun and excitement, offering community resource information for residents along open streets and many activities for kids and adults to enjoy. The route allowed attendees

to bike, walk, roller skate, skateboard, jump, run, and play. There were raffle prizes, dancing horses, food, games, a bouncy house, a decoration area, and a face-painting area. The weather was spectacular, and many people heard about the event through Telemundo Segment Que Pasa and Facebook. This event is a response to reckless driving in Milwaukee as Ciclovía creates a safe environment for everyone to share the road while accomplishing our mission to unite residents, youth, law enforcement, and community resources to build safe and empowered neighborhoods.

RECKLESS DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

July marks Reckless Driving Awareness Month, a critical time to address the escalating issue of reckless driving in our communities. In Milwaukee, reckless driving incidents have surged, leading to an alarming rise in traffic accidents and fatalities. The city's bustling streets, combined with high-speed driving, red-light running, and aggressive behavior behind the wheel, have created a hazardous environment for all road users. Similarly, Racine has seen an uptick in reckless driving, endangering pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists. The local authorities are ramping up efforts to combat this dangerous trend, but community awareness and cooperation are vital.

The importance of safe driving cannot be overstated. It is essential for protecting lives and ensuring the well-being of everyone on the road. Adhering to speed limits, obeying traffic signals, and practicing defensive driving are simple yet effective ways to prevent accidents and save lives. As we observe Reckless Driving Awareness Month, let us all commit to driving responsibly and encouraging others to do the same. By fostering a culture of safety and respect on our roads, we can make Milwaukee and Racine safer places for everyone. Safe driving is not just a personal responsibility; it's a community effort that can lead to a significant reduction in traffic-related injuries and fatalities.

To support safe driving in our communities Safe & Sound is hosting a 2-hour Drive Wisdom Course at our headquarters here at 4422 W. Leon Terrace. Two young people in attendance will receive a voucher for a paid Driver's Ed course.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ephesians Missionary
Baptist Church



EMBASSY
CENTER MKE

1000 PAIRS OF
NEW SHOES
Giveaway

SATURDAY
JULY 20TH

@10AM

EMBASSY CENTER MKE
3725 N SHERMAN BLVD

SHOE SIZES: 9C - ADULT 13

Qualifications:
Child must be present
to receive shoes.

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

DRIVE WISDOM PROJECT

943

Join us for an interactive session about
Reckless/Unlawful Driving!

July 31st
2024

Safe Sound
4422 W Leon
Terrace 53216

4:00PM
to
6:00PM

**TO SIGN UP
CONTACT US**



414.220.4780



info@safesound.org



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