








E. Tackk Postings





Interview with Michael Gosman, Executive Director ACTS Milwaukee 9/29/15

COMMENT STREAM

@jolenevitale

Interview with Michael Gosman, Executive Director for ACTS
Wednesday September 29, 2015


0

I had a telephone interview with Mike Gosman to discuss how ACTS works in the Amani Neighborhood and to gather some facts and opinions on how the Alvemo MBA project may unfold in this area.

ACTS has been around for over 20 years. Their mission is to promote affordable home ownership for low-income individuals in the inner city. This promotes resident empowerment and creates a sense of community. Mike Gosman works with residents in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood.

Mike covered a few main points about home ownership, sense of community and residents in Amani.


- Vacant homes are a serious problem in Amani that has steadily gotten worse over the last 5 years. Much of this is due to the changing economy. Home prices have fallen during this time period and people are able to afford homes in




Like 0

Tweet 0


Created 27 days ago · Update




FOLLOWING




RETACKK



FAVORITE



SHARE



is from
ying a
lesirable



367

40

3

0

0

0

s. The

homes they purchase are about \$3,500 and require immense sweat equity to bring them to a livable condition. ACTS partners with these people to make that happen.

- Homeownership brings about a great sense of pride and investment in the community.
- Mike shared a story of one man who purchased a home with the assistance of ACTS. He grew up in Amani and feels strongly it is his home. He purchased a home on a block that has a strong sense of community. Mike mentioned that "Not all of Amani is bad. You have to look at it block by block. Some blocks are really good."
- Mike had strong opinions on the state of Amani. He was adamant that "Amani is not hopeless". He went on to say there is a great deal of mistrust in the community and that residents have been the 'victims' of golden parachutes that come in and enact 'programs' that will not benefit the people of Amani.
- In review of the project Alverno is working on, Mike offered a few words of advice. "For anything to be successful it has to come from the residents". He didn't feel food was a major issue in light of all that is going on in Amani.



@ecsherman



I think the last statement here is one that should be included in the final document. I think this may even be an exceptional value statement for the neighborhood. "For successful sustainable change, it must come from Amani." The neighborhood has tremendous strength and it is this strength that we work with them to help move forward. Nice job here Jolene!

0



@jolenevitale



Thanks!

0



Leave a comment...



`"bold" _italics_ `code` >quote`



Meeting with Attorney and Executive Director of COA Tom Schneider



- COA was established in 1906 to serve low-income children and families in the Milwaukee area. Today COA serves over 10,000 families in the city of Milwaukee, with 11 locations.
- COA focuses on early childhood education, youth development and community and family development.

- Offers the only affordable nationally accredited early childhood center in Milwaukee.
- Partners with 7 MPS schools, including Auer Ave. in the Amani neighborhood to assist in educational development.
- Recently launched a youth leadership violence prevention program to help rid violence in the community.
- Tom stated that community development is one of the most complicated pieces the organization struggles with. This is due to the complex nature of the issues, such as poverty, hunger and violence.
- Their very first experiment in community development was leasing a park once owned by the state that was abandoned and attracted drug dealers and prostitutes.
- The park was cleaned up and re-built to include open space, music and a new theater. This venue's family fun night attracts 250-500 families.
- They were able to transform the area by just simply cleaning up the park.
- Around the 24th and Burleigh location was once considered the single most distressed area in the city of Milwaukee.
- COA renovated a once abandoned building in the area and opened the "Golden Center", the largest youth center in the city.
- Tom stated that you can't transform the community with just a single piece. You have to have neighborhood engagement and building assets.
- Tom spoke about the steps it took to provide healthcare access in the Amani neighborhood and how important it was to involve the residents. He said if you don't ask them what they want you can't give them what they need.
- He spoke about Amani being a food desert and how the liquor stores and "corner stores" are sucking the life out of the community.
- He said that COA launched mobile fresh markets to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables. This was unsuccessful because it was too irregular.
- He said they also launched a food program in the park, which was unsuccessful.
- He said Outpost or Whole Foods pop up shops will be a waste because it's not what the people asked for and it too expensive.
- COA's vision to combat the issue is to open a grocery store and small café on 27th and Burleigh. (I will explain how they will go about doing this in class very interesting.)
- He is partnering the government and local police to force the change.
- Once you have one successful business in the area other's will be more willing to come in.
- He said the goal should not be to get people to eat fresh fruits and vegetables, but to first provide them access to fresh fruits and vegetables. He said we have to walk before

we crawl.

- The only way we can measure the success of our business is through profit.
- Our meeting was a hour and a half long. I included the high points of our conversation.



Search Tackk

tackk



Interview with City of Milwaukee Office of Environmental Sustainability - 10/15/15

COMMENT STREAM



@CarolEdmonds



Interview with Tim McCollow and Erick Shambarger, City of Milwaukee Office of Environmental Sustainability, on 10/15/15



0

I was expecting to meet with Erick Shambarger but was pleasantly surprised to have Tim McCollow, the Home Gr/own Project Manager, available to discuss the Amani neighborhood food sustainability issue. As I had tried to reach Tim via email with no success and was told by others that he is very busy and hard to reach.

Tim McCollow is very knowledgeable in regarding to the City of Milwaukee neighborhoods and he worked will the UWM Master students on the Amani Neighborhood Action plan and provided the link to that research:

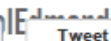
https://www4.uwm.edu/sarup/program/planning/upload/amanineighborhoodactionplan_apw-2013.pdf

He stated that two of the authors from the UWM action plan, Fatima Benhaddou and Jeremy Davis, would be great resources as Alverno moves forward in the community.



Like

Created 22 days ago

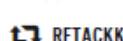


Tweet

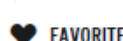


FOLLOW

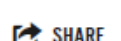
Update



RETACKK



FAVORITE



SHARE



ity

:

'site in

letcalfe



⚡ 303

👁 35

💬 2

🔄 0

❤ 0

⚡ 0

ersation

Group. He is focused on building the parks but may be an excellent resource to successes and/or barriers the Walnut Way neighborhood may have experienced. HOME GR/OWN led the opening of Ezekiel Gillespie Park in the Lindsey Heights neighborhood offering a safe gathering space with fruit trees. Since the park has opened there have been zumba classes, block parties and it is cleaner with less crime. The safer and less crime is the result of the parks being designed for more elder people who are the bedrock of the neighborhoods by owning homes and willing to call in complaints. The pocket parks offer a place for good to outnumber the bad people.

Tim stated changes in the Metcalfe Park neighborhood indicate a 35% reduction in crime

Issues related to corner stores in the Amani Neighborhood

- Distributors will not sell business owners small amounts of fresh food which creates the corner store business to purchase small amounts of fresh food that does not sell because of the psychological phenomenon of people not buying food unless there are large volumes available. So when the food does not sell these owners then believe that the consumer is not interested in eating healthy.
- In Lindsay Height neighborhood put in three (3) healthy corner stores and only one (1) has survived. In addition, only one (1) grocery store, Rainbow food store, has survived in this area.
- An obstacle for corner stores is using space for refrigeration to keep foods fresh. In addition, the cost of purchasing these systems and using electricity all play a factor in keeping healthy foods out of these businesses.
- Tim stated the State of Pennsylvania put \$30 million into the healthy food initiative and may have been successful only because of the large amount they invested in the issue. This is not something the State of Wisconsin or the City of Milwaukee can afford. Plus only time will tell if the PA initiatives will be sustainability and if it not, that is a lot of money lost for the State.

Tim explained that the food desert in Milwaukee is a little different than other areas because residents do have access to a car. They may not own a car but someone they know has a car and will take them to a grocery store a few miles away.

This unique food desert creates an obstacle for incoming businesses. These businesses will need to research and become involved in the community prior to

opening a store. Tim stated some questions to ask the community are:

- What store front appearance is appealing to the community?
- What variety of foods and services do they desire?

o Alcohol is a big issue –residents do not want it but it is often the money maker for the business

o Personal care products

Check out research in France on the ugly food being promoted. Trying to bring awareness to the organic food movement.

The City of Milwaukee Strong Neighborhood Plans works with the Neighborhood Improvement Development Center (NIDC) by funding/matching up to \$10,000 for any neighborhood project.

The Strong Neighborhood Plan is mostly focused on homes with the Department of City Development where two contacts, Martha Brown and Maria Prioletta, can be helpful.

Suggested Resources

A national organization - Policy Link. Org

Local Initiatives Support Corporation – lisc.org

 @ecsherman



Great work here Carol. Really great interview and great information.

♥ 0



Leave a comment...



`"bold" _italics_ `code` >quote`



Dominican Center for Women – Meeting with Sr. Patricia Rogers

Tuesday, October 6th 2015 - 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Sr. Patricia from the Dominican Center for Women (DCW) was generous enough to meet with six of us regarding our project. Her stories, insights, and unique point of view have shaped my outlook on the true need of this project. The following represent some of the key points I took away from our meeting:

- Amani neighborhood does not currently have a large enough footprint to support a large scale grocery store.
- Healthy food options are lacking, however food is present.
- Food is not seen as large problem within the neighborhood
- Deep poverty over many years has allowed corner stores to become the key source of food.
- No real access to fresh fruit or vegetables
- Recent project involved growing of squash and zucchini in neighborhood garden and then sharing recipes on how to properly prepare the vegetables
- DCW began by establishing programs for women. Then expanded to families with housing assistance. Originally, houses could be purchased and rehabbed for \$15,000. Now, due to housing conditions, to completely rehab a home to meet building codes, most projects would cost about \$70,000. This far exceeds what the home would be worth after remodeling.
- The center is no longer starting programs. They provide assistance to help support residents to do what they want and need. Sustainability is crucial and that can only occur if there is neighborhood participation and buy-in.

- A current program within the neighborhood is to match a resident with a non-profit individual to learn leadership skills. At the end of the training, there must be a project that is started that benefits the community.
- Many organizations come in and issue fixes for symptoms and not the problem.
- There are too many silos all doing the same thing. Poverty is a trillion dollar industry. There is plenty of funding, just not enough programs or projects that target the true problem.
- Interaction with the neighborhood is important. Communication and trust is needed before any project can have the potential to make true change.
- Too many individuals within the community do not think long term. Most have grown up in a situation where living to age 21 is long term.
- Residents of the neighborhood need to lead the change from the ground up.
- Individual within the DWC has taken it upon himself to focus on youth in the neighborhood. Change the thinking in the neighborhood by introducing rugby for the youth and looking to bring focus to proper housing.
- COA has been good for the community. Supports programs for the youth and provides wraparound services.
- There are many failed projects that have been attempted. Many failed because an outside group came in with their idea of the problem and their idea of the solution. This ill fit caused programs to fail. The residents did not see the value in what was being offered because solution was not addressing what needed to be addressed.
- 50% of the neighborhood is willing to participate in ways to improve community. One third of these individuals are looking to lead, one third are looking to do the work they are instructed, and the last third is looking to focus on their specific block.
- Communication is passed along through word of mouth. Emails and phone numbers change too often to be effective ways of communicating.

- Past successes have required individuals to actively participate in neighborhood meetings. Different players need to come together within the neighborhood to see what is really needed. Sometimes the most successful and needed projects are not seen until directly interacting with the residents.

- Past meetings with community have resulted in immunization programs for animals in the neighborhood. From the outside, this may not have been seen as a need.



10/13/15 Interview with Assistant Chief Edith Hudson

How can the police assist in bring a sustainable food source to the Amani neighborhood?

- Provide feedback on what are safe times to hold farmer's markets or business hours in store
- What building spaces can be safe, i.e. COA or Dominican Center
- Security in housing the food source
- The police also need to eat in this district providing a customer base for a business. When an officer is assigned they either have to bring in food or go outside of the area for food and leaving the area is discouraged.
- Just knowing there is a good food source the police will access the business to purchase and by default create a more of deterrent for criminal behavior in turn creating a safety feature for customers and business owners

Words of advice when working or entering the community

- She learned early in her career that the police department trying to impose their ideas on the community does not create buy in from the community
- A person does not need to actually see the neighborhood to understand it's needs or wants but a person just needs to have a good heart and intention to help – listening to the community is key
- She believes that a healthy food source will benefit the youth especially when related to learning and displaying better behaviors
- The food source needs to be affordable & this will be a challenge in this area and buying healthy food
- Frequently community members do not want to challenge the alderman position due to fear of losing block grant funding.

Good Resources to help with the sustainable food concept

- Sharon and Larry Adams in Walnut Way where Outpost pop up store is opening
- Believes the Adams' could share their relationship building skills with the

Amani community to create a better understanding of why a healthy sustainable food source is very important

- Alderwoman Coggs out of the three alderman in this district to become involved in this community. The Amani community may need to be persistent in reaching the Alderman Coggs as she may not aware of the food desert issues. The city alderman often have an overload of issues to contend with and need to be repeatedly approached before getting their full attention.
- Assistant Chief stated if the community wants alderman involvement, she will call Alderman Coggs and provide her information about this Alverno's approach to working with Amani to avoid a cold call with no response.

Amani Neighborhood - interesting information

- Captain in Amani Neighborhood from 2009 - 2012
- During which time gangs have evolved and have become less hierarchical keeping them focused on making money and not concerned with leadership
- This change makes is harder for police to manage the gangs because there are more like 10 versus 3 - creating more of a safety issue
- business in the area for decades - Carter's (80 years of age) drug store 24th and Locust - has strong relationship and no incidence - ac said no calls to this business due to the respect and relationship have for business owner and employees - benefits
- Greatest concentration of liquor licenses - stores/taverns/corner stores/ - is in the Amani neighborhood - dis con, battery issues coming from alcohol - reduce that density by limited liquor license
- Corner and liquor stores make their money on drug paraphernalia, stolen cell phones, and proceeds from criminal activity - not all corner stores are into illegal activities

Recommendations for Success of Implementation

- For safety reasons - the latest for store to be open would be 6 pm
- It needs to be affordable!!!!
- Sister Patricia is a huge asset to the Amani Neighborhood but may not have the influence on the community for understanding the need for a sustainable food source. For this reason, using people such as Sharon and William Adams experience of implementing in the Walnut Way area, could begin the process in Amani.

Notes from Feeding America meeting: November 4, 2015

The group introduced Feeding America to me. National organization (used to be Second Harvest) and was re-branded now so they are a partner with Second Harvest, but became Feeding America in late 1990's early 2000. Has recently opened a brand new facility near Appleton. Currently partners with over 600 programs, over 100 different food pantries, and over 200 programs just in Milwaukee along. Connected to Feeding America (national organization). Business model is a co-op model. Ninety-seven cents on every dollar is invested back into programs. Difference between Feeding America and Hunger Task force is that Hunger Task Force is that FA doesn't distribute or receive government subsidies. They are very complimentary about Hunger Task Force local advocacy arm.

They encouraged us to visit with Lindsay Heights neighborhood and on November 17 at 6:30 there is a meeting around what has happened in the Lindsay Heights area to develop food sources and access to food. Lindsay Heights is very involved in wanting to create sustainable economic models to keep income in the area. They felt based on what we are doing in the Amani neighborhood, there would be some synergies.

Someone in City government they encouraged us to meet with is Rocky Marcoux-commissioner for City Development-This person oversees neighborhood plans. Rayna worked closely with Chris Abele on the Revitalization plan and will send some information to that extent with regard to the Amani area. It is important to look at vacant land in Amani.

People keep bringing up Lena's market. I thought this closed???

Feeding America is now partnering with Meda House and Food Share in WI. To develop a foodshare "app." I sort of thought we were pretty far from this concept at this point.

According to Feeding America, Bethesda church and several others in the Amani area have a concerted effort to provide meals EVERY evening in the Amani area? Are we aware of this?? Feeding America is also partnering now with Boys and Girls Club. They feel we should be working with them and with COA as the primary anchor organization in Amani as well as Dominican Center.

The Zilber Foundation worked on a report called "Center for Resilient Cities-Community Plan." Can we get hold of this??

One educational idea that came up was offering a "certificate" program to interested residents of the Amani neighborhood to gain education and skills in Community Development. Everyone thought that Amani residents are very strong but lack

"structure" and providing them with leadership skills in Community Development and Leadership would position them differently.

They encouraged us to reach out to Young Kim—Fondy's to see what happened with the "Community Kitchen" concept in terms of teaching culinary skills to people who could then go on to work in kitchens etc. Also begins to change the culture of what to cook and eat.

They suggested a 'small win' might be having residents in the community bake pies for Thanksgiving and sponsoring a sale.

One pioneer in Collective Impact models is : FSG. Didn't we look into these people? So far they have not sponsored a project in Milwaukee. IS this the time???

I did get an email from NML. They are sponsoring a "conversation" on the three neighborhoods they are in coming up. I will be at this and let you all know when it is—I will pull it from my email and send it.

It was a very productive 1.5 hours I spent with them.



Greater Milwaukee Foundation Interview 10/14/15 Kathryn Dunn



Great interview with Kathryn Dunn, VP of Community Investment with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

GMF has a Healthy Neighborhoods initiative that would encompass food accessibility, though they don't target programs that work on that area exclusively. The GMF's focus is middle market neighborhoods - not the very distressed communities like Amani, nor affluent, but those bridge communities in between them that could easily tip back into being distressed. They invest in groups that help prevent the neighborhood from tipping - advocacy groups, improving public appearance, and preserving the real estate market. They also

have a Community Development Alliance for a broader based collaboration within a neighborhood. In their experience, top concerns in their neighborhoods are still safety & jobs

I walked through our approach, and emphasized Alverno's commitment to the Amani, and she viewed favorably the sustainable (market-based) approach and desired level of community involvement. Some things to be keep in mind (maybe to be included in our plan's next steps for the next cohort):

Build in feedback loops - frequent checks on the plan with residents & leaders as it is developed & moves forward. Design thinking... which makes me need to review the presentation on Tom Kelly & IDEO.

Know both the formal AND informal leaders of the community.

Double check the language used.

A Market Demand study - what does the neighborhood want for food options - this would also give data regarding current food culture, what would sell, and if there needs to be education around increasing the attractiveness of healthier options.

They have a real estate Market Value Analysis as an online tool that looks at the city in 8 block increments - good microdata.

<http://www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org/communit...>

We have MANY social service orgs on our interview list. Which makes sense, because that's who NMF is dealing with. We have very few commercial groups - would be good to find out why a store (Aldi, Roundy's, Sendik's, etc.) isn't currently in an area and what would it take to go there.

Orchards and community gardens are good steps but the groups that organize these don't have the capacity to grow them extensively.

IFF (iff.org) should be researched (and interviewed). They are a financing group that offers loans and real estate consulting to low income communities. They have a special focus on loaning to entrepreneurs who are launching stores in food deserts. Started in Illinois but have reach across the Midwest.

When looking at cooking classes as a potential education component, also need to keep in mind what the residents have to cook with (equipment wise).



Interview with Growing Power - Will Allen



GROWING POWER INC.

Interview with Growing Power - Will Allen

Interview & conference speech with Will Allen on Friday October 9, 2015.

Will Allen spoke about what Growing Power has done, who they're working with, and what they plan to do in the future.

What is happening currently within the immediate community:

- They have the 1st vertical greenhouse (a greenhouse building with multiple floors), located on 55th & Silver spring.
- They receive funding through Aramark who brings food meals.
- **Exclusive:** He agreed to partner with Sr. MacCanon Brown who is opening a homeless shelter on Center St. (MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary, Inc.)
- **Exclusive:** Mrs. Eileen Sherman was offered a position as a board member for Growing Power.
- Growing Power has created over 100 jobs.
- o They worked to provide trainees living wages and after 1 year as a trainee they are offered full employment.
- o They receive \$12/hr as a trainee.
- § Many of the trainees wages were garnished (child support etc.) so that is something that they had to overcome.

Challenges:

- Access to healthy produce.
- Finding people who want to farm since the average age now of a farmer is 60+ yrs old.
- It can't be sustainable just on the backs of farmers.
- Climate changes (droughts, floods etc.).

What needs to happen:

- There needs to be more local farming, vertical farming needs to happen to eat healthier/nutritious.
- Need good soil, that's where it starts. Composting provides high fertility.
- o Growing Power collects waste from NML cafeteria, Walmart, animal farmers etc.
- Need to develop a food system to combat poverty, death
- § If 1 neighborhood suffers, it's everyone's problem.
- Need the medical industry, universities, and political people all at the table to discuss multi-level change.
- § It needs to be done on a local level.
- There needs to be passion to make a change.
- Need to educate people on how to cook, which foods to buy, how to garden.
- There should be a sign in grocery stores that say "locally grown".

How he would measure success in Amani:

- We need to have a big anchor in the community & he is willing to help with that.

What is happening elsewhere:

- Real Food Challenge at universities which is 20% of food needs to be locally grown.
- Government in Cuba put together sustainable food system so they are the 2nd highest in life expectancy. (Canada is 1st, USA 3rd)
- SYSCO is a whole sale buyer of Growing Power goods.
- 37 schools have aquaponics (growing fish & crops) but every school should have a garden.

- In Green Bay, WI, Jimmy P will be putting in an aquaponics system.
- In Atlanta, GA, Turner Field (old baseball field of Atlanta Braves) will have an agricultural piece put in.
- Growing Power has a presence in England & they're receiving funding through the state.
- In Haiti- Growing Power is starting a program in an area of Port au Prince that even state/government officials can't go into.
- They are trying to set up an office in DC for urban farmers so they have a voice on Capitol Hill.

Additional input from Adekola Adedapo (friend of Will Allen):

- The political climate within Amani is that they resist government control.
- If you look at the home environment, it is very afro-centric.

What needs to happen is come from a different direction because too much academia/government won't work.

Food for thought:

- Only 5% of our food is good food (non GMO).



Interview Hunger Task Force



Interview: Sherrie Tussler, Hunger Task Force.

Shared **Brief History** of Amani Neighborhood

Shared **Past Programs/Studies** in Amani Neighborhood

- Auer Avenue Summer Meal Program
- Neighborhood Survey
- Market Basket Study
- Grocery Store Tour

Perceptions/Issues

Suggestions

I will share my meeting details in class, email me if you have questions or if you would like supplemental information.



Jewish Community Center – Jewish Community Pantry – Interview with Mona Cohen – Director of Adult Programs & Community Services <https://www.jccmilwaukee.org>

I spoke with Mona Cohen regarding the Food Pantry that supports the Amani neighborhood. Here are some take aways from our discussion:

- The organization is 2nd largest pantry within Hunger Task Force
- The Jewish Community Pantry has been involved in the neighborhood for a long time.
- Originally located on Burleigh, however flooding required them to move. The Hunger Task Force requested that they move to support the 53210 zip code.
- This area had the highest need.
- The pantry is open every Thursday and two Sundays a month.
- Originally open only on Thursday, the pantry needed to increase available days to meet demand. They currently serve about 1000 people a week.
- The core of the individuals are from the neighborhood, however they are an open zip code pantry. Therefore, anyone is free to pick up foods.
- They receive most of their food from the Hunger Task Force. This includes a mixture of deliverables.
- Each session they are open, they do have fresh fruits and vegetables, however, they always run out before the end of the day. They do have more during the

summer months.

- Each family is interviewed and a bag is assembled based on their wants and needs. Each package is meant to last a family with food for 3-4 days.
- They want to make sure to only give out food that will be eaten. That is why the interview is important. Preventing waste is important.

Root Causes:

- Many macro issues at play.
- A lot of problems exist based on racism, education, political, lack of employment, lack of healthcare, low income, weak family unit, and safety,
- Food support is only placing a "finger in the dam" of problems.
- A lot of programs are "not addressing the true issues". But all help is needed.

What more is needed:

- Food prep and storage education
- A pilot program called "Chop Shop" being organized to allow for the education of different kinds of produce.
- What can be done with a head of cabbage if you do not know how to prep it.
- Simple recipes and ways to get these recipes to families
- Gathering of existing community partners. So much already exists. No need to build something from the ground up. Coordinate existing efforts.

What should we know:

- Effort in coordination is very important
- The center would like to offer more wrap around services. It would be great if the pantry could offer services such as clothes, job fair, medical and dental services.
- Food is important however, only part of the issue

- The center is always looking for volunteers and support. More than happy to show us the center or walk through of one of the food pantry days.

Mona is very excited about the the potential that Alverno and our class has to offer in supporting the community. She looks forward to working with us in any way possible. Please let me know if you would like more information.



Meeting with Tim Greinert – President of Junior Achievement

Tim was kind enough to spend about 30 minutes with me over the phone talking about some of the things that JA (Junior Achievement) does and their involvement in Amani. Tim's perspective was very interesting; his approach to the food desert problem in the Amani neighborhood has to do with economics and economic decisions.

According to Tim the first issue with food accessibility in the Amani neighborhood has to do with the lack of grocery stores (food selection), an excess of convenience stores, lack of transportation and overall poverty. The second issue has to do with economics of companies. It is tough for any store to have competitive prices in the area. Tim says there is a desire for a grocery store in the area however no one can compete with the low prices big chain stores charge. Moreover, big chains have no interest in opening a location in/around the Amani neighborhood. The third issue is the loss of traditional cooking; Tim predicts that baby boomers have and will continue to move away from at-home food preparation. In fact, even when they are provided with an opportunity to go to groceries stores, they opt for deli food (pre-made food) and not for ingredients allowing for traditional meal preparation in the home.

Tim explains that from JA's mission and vision, the food desert problem has to do with community members making poor economic choices. Better economic

decision making leads to better careers, a better financial position, better employment, better planning and less negative situations which in turn leads to better food decisions. JA focuses on the first step, helping people make better economic decisions through education. From here JA's hope is that a sort of "domino effect" will lead to better decision making in all aspects of life and a better future overall, including health decisions. The goal for JA is to enable and provide community members with the tools necessary to allow all members to become economically self-sufficient.



Jenny Toutant and Hope Parow – Interview with The Milwaukee Rep

The approach of The Milwaukee Repertory Theater (The Milwaukee Rep) in the Amani neighborhood is educational. According to Jenny, education for the community from the Milwaukee Rep involves improving literacy, social interaction, emotional skill-building and critical thinking. The Rep accomplishes this through many different avenues; empowering community members to write and participate in plays, learn about photography and promote intelligent conversations by reviewing plays (as part of a panel) just to name a few. The most interesting part of The Milwaukee Rep is their approach to servicing the community. Over the past 3 years the themes of their community involved programs have been: Freedom (Civil Rights), Good People (identity as a person and a community member) and Dream Girls (personal and community dreams). "Always get the students to think about who they are and what they want their neighborhood to be or how they want to help them" (Jenny).

The Milwaukee Rep gained recognition within the Amani neighborhood by asking community members pertinent questions. They discovered they could not simply advertise and host an event and expect participants, they needed to connect and create trust within the community and the Amani neighborhood had to desire that support. The Milwaukee Rep's main focus is to create a sustainable program designated at creating beneficial community members in order to cease problems such as food deserts, a huge feat according to Hope, "it does not work to impose or force a program (...) especially if you want the program to be sustainable" (Hope). She went on to add that "Hunger Task stop going there (Moody Park) because of safety".

The Milwaukee Rep does not wholly see food accessibility as the main problem, they understand it and they know it is important but their involvement in the neighborhood does not focus purely on that single aspect. Jenny mentioned that Sister Patricia would be a better source for that question. Jenny did mention that the Dominican Center for Women went to the homes of Amani community members asking about their ideas and dreams for their neighborhood. A large amount responded that they did not know how The Dominican Center could help. Members of the Center realized the problems associated with poor nutrition and lack of healthy eating habit education so they took a hands on approach; hosting potluck dinners for community members. Jenny also mentioned the idea of a cook book could be beneficial and she has since received positive feedback, unfortunately nothing has surfaced as of yet.

During our discussion about some of the different programs of The Milwaukee Rep, the question of participation and communicating with the community came up. The Milwaukee Rep struggles with participation. There is no way to communicate with the community about what they are doing, the only way is to make a flyer and send it to the Center, schools and associations and hope it word gets out.

I asked Jenny and Hope if the best way to change the Amani neighborhood was to educate the youth. They agreed - "The youth are an important and powerful thing to bring in and educate and get on board with the problems and how to solve them".

The last thing Jenny mentioned was that we needed to call on the city of

Milwaukee and push for a new neighborhood. The official maps of the displaying Milwaukee and its neighborhood dates back 15 years and do not include many of the newer neighborhoods, such as Amani.



Search Tackk

tackk



Interview with Tracy Hrajnoha @ Neu-Life on 10/14/15

COMMENT STREAM



@CarolEdmonds



Interview with Tracy Hrajnoha, Director of Partnerships & Community Engagement at Ne-Life Community Development on 10/14/15

♥ 0

Non-profit organization with focus on education in the following areas:

- Arts
- Academic Enrichment & Life Skills
- Health & Wellness
- Service Learning & Entrepreneurship
- Community Action Projects
- Workforce Development

There are ages 3 through 20 participating in programs and those who have been involved with Neu-Life become employees having a big commitment to the community

They work out of locations in on the north side of Chicago providing service to over 200 youth in a day ages 3-20.

Report Tackk

Like 0

Tweet 0

FOLLOW

RETACKK

FAVORITE

SHARE

Created 19 days ago · Update





⚡ 140

👁 20

💬 0

🔄 0

❤ 0

⚡ 0

use and

Projects:

Garden on 19th & Meinecke

Lot of Respect-Garden of Respect

- Youth involvement in all aspects i.e. plotting gardens to cooking food
- Food used for weekly dinner and remaining food is processed for freezing
- Pay it Forward Program

Barriers to healthy food source

- New business owner need mindset to see potential in the community
- New business owner needs to invest time in the neighborhood and create relationships
- Corner stores have been in the neighborhood for a long time providing unhealthy food and liquor

Opportunities for healthy food source

- Educating the young community members
- Establish trust within the community by being present and real
- Looking to a new type of Co-op business
- New business owner would have many employees within the community – win-win for business owner and community members

Look to learn more about food success/failure

- Whole Foods in Anglewood, Illinois-
- Milwaukee Food Council meets every other month with the next meeting on Thursday, November 19th from 9 am to 11 am

Misconceptions of the Amani neighborhood

- "People don't want to work" – actually most people in Amani want to work and have a desire to succeed like any of person - root cause to this thinking is the underlying racism issue in our country & poverty
- People in Amani want healthy food – she has observed neighborhood members frequenting Fondy Market with bags of fresh food

Alice Community Garden

- Venus Williams – very busy and hard to reach
- Very involved with the community
- Sharon Johnson – spiritual caretaker
- Meet at Body & Soul Healing Center – located N 21st & Brown – next to Brown Street Academy – offering yoga, grief circle and wellness
- Working with Neu-Life for 10 years - contact Tracy for specific contacts at Alice Garden and she will direct to the best person

Political opportunity

- Alderman Russell Stamper
 - o Came into government on a special election after his predecessor withdrew from the position
 - o Since he is newer to politics he remains in the learning phase and is open to many ideas
 - o His assistant is Damian and is very helpful
 - o Very support with Neu-Life's agenda

Partnership opportunity

- Looking into purchasing homes from the City of Milwaukee for \$1.00
- Use the community members involved with Neu-Life
- To rebuild infrastructure using people in community to develop a trade skill
- Build a garden plot for each home
- Rent to Neu-Life employee (frequently members eventually become an employee) – this program will help the younger adults move out of the parent's home & developing independence & renting at an affordable price
- Renter then takes care of property and garden
- Neu-life interest is to teach a valuable trade, improve the neighborhood and develop independence for individuals



Leave a comment...



"bold" _italics_ `code` >quote



Interview with Outpost Foods



Interview was conducted with Jessy Servi, Sustainability manager for Outpost Foods by Ariana Reyes on September 22, 2015

Have you seen any issues regarding food accessibility in the Amani neighborhood?

I was on the board for the Victory Garden Initiative, they have a main garden in the Concordia neighborhood, and there they build a food system.

We are doing a food pop up store at 17th & North opening in October (2015) in the Walnut Way neighborhood. It is a temporary location. The building houses Walnut Wellness Commons, a juice kitchen, Milwaukee Center for Independence has lunch programs for students and Fondy farmers have an office on the 2nd floor. It is a team effort with all these businesses in one area.

The pop up store is phase 1. Phase 2 for the Wellness Commons is to build a permanent larger store. We measure success differently; we essentially measure it by break-even.

The pop-up store is having basic grocery items. We accept food stamps at the store and we are currently in the process of obtaining WIC for women and children to get their basic items. I don't know where we stand currently but we are hoping to have it by the time we open our pop-up store.

Why do you think that has happened?

There are a lot of highly processed foods and unhealthy options. Actually the Walnut community came to Outpost, we didn't go to the neighborhood saying we want you to change your ways.

What have you seen to indicate this is a problem?

Real estate plays a factor; there isn't a lot of space in corner stores. They don't have the support they need because many customers have limited resources.

Violence and crime plays a factor. At our Capitol Drive location we have security all the time because crime was an issue there. Just recently a woman had her purse stolen in the parking lot. The crime is in the parking lot, they're going after money and food.

Has your organization tried to address this issue? If so- what did you do? What happened?

We have partnered with many community programs both formally & informally. With the Walnut community we worked with them more informally over the years. This is the first formal partnership we are doing with them.

How do you think this issue can be reduced?

This is a complex issue that needs a lot of different ways. The first is through the Victory Garden Initiative model, they educate the community about growing their own food. This isn't for everyone because not everyone wants to be a gardener.

Crime, poverty, the culture all contribute to the issue and need to be addressed.

The other is it has to come within the community; they have to want to change. We were very selective when we hire because we want people who live in that community that know how to

communicate best with others. Already there are misconceptions about us. Some think that we are Whole Foods.

How would you measure the success of it?

We have a team that is working on the variety of levels; it is an on-going system. I don't know the specifics of all the matrices. We do have co-op goals, ownership goals. We want to be seen as a positive place in the community, as a resource.



Search Tackk

tackk



Interview with Safe & Sound, Inc.

COMMENT STREAM



@CarolEdmonds



Meeting with Katie Sanders at Safe & Sound – Friday, 10/9/15

♥ 0

Present at the meeting was Ann - District 5 Police Department (414-234-9522)

Ann works with community liaison officers: Ed Ciano and Laurie Lamers

Concerns District 5 police have in the Amani Neighborhood are:

- safety for residents and business owners & property
- Loitering
- Drug dealing
- Theft
- Highly populated with ex-offenders

Traffic is an issue

- children crossing the roads is a major safety issue
- Main arterial roads cannot have speed bumps under the state/federal guidelines
- An suggested idea is to look for potential funding to deal with traffic related issues

• Ann looks at lights and pedestrian crossing areas

@CarolEdmonds

Like 0

Tweet 0

FOLLOW

RETACKK

FAVORITE

SHARE

Created 22 days ago · Update





219



23



2



0



0



0

to do

- Tabernacle Baptist Community Church – Pastor is community minded and big stakeholder in the Amani neighborhood
- St. Ann Center Bucyrus Campus located at 2450 W North Avenue, – soft open has occurred, creates employment opportunity for residents

A few potential issues were noted such as when collaborating with the neighborhood churches; they have their own agenda and many of the church goers are not just from the Amani neighborhood leading to community conflicts

Political structure for the Amani Neighborhood

- The neighborhood is divided between three alderman
 - o Alderman Stamper – considered more economic driven, visionary, listens, works well with the Common Council and his Assistant Damian is very helpful
 - o Alderwoman Coggs – not a lot is known about this alderwoman
 - o Alderman Willie Wade – very busy with several committees and we should not expect a lot of face time with this alderman unless it is a higher level of engagement
- City government is fractured and generally the alderman will not be approachable until a proposal is moving forward and needs their approval

Resources to check into

- City of Milwaukee Office of Sustainability Home Grown – Tim McCollow, Project Manager – has program for entrepreneurial ideas for any food ideas
- CTPED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) deals with nuisance property issues
- Milwaukee County is focused on mental health and homelessness versus food sustainability issues
- Children's Hospital Navigators is a good resource for programming and education – opening clinics at COA and could potentially get involved with education on food choices

Potential issues for Sustainable Food Source

- introducing an unwanted food business could fail due to loyalty to convenience

market such as Carter's who has been in neighborhood long term

- Community relationships need to be developed before approaching the idea

Opportunities for success

- It is important to get the young population involved
- Gaining community trust by being present



@ecsherman



The last two opportunities are really ones that should be built into the final plan.
Really well done here.

♥ 0



Leave a comment...



`"bold" _italics_ `code` >quote`



Interview - Zilber Family Foundation



Interview with Dr. Susan Lloyd by Jym Pieper, September 25, 2015

Dr. Lloyd has been leading ZFF's Milwaukee neighborhood initiative - a 10-year, \$50M program originally based in Lindsay Heights, Layton Blvd West, and Clarke Square. Prior to coming to Milwaukee in 2008, she lead a similar program serving 16 Chicago neighborhoods.

Interesting takeaways:

They too start with working directly with residents and letting them set the agenda for the neighborhood Quality of Life plan. Priorities include: safety, decent housing, good schools, transportation options, and Sat AM convenience shopping.

There is a different geography scale for different projects. For example, in the 110 square block area of Lindsay Heights, a youth program might be only 25 square blocks. Amani is 64 square blocks. Need to keep scale in mind as we discuss various options.

Programs that address more than one issue are more successful - don't isolate the goal in a silo. Example: seniors going to stores nervous about underemployed teen-25 males hanging out (jobs, public safety, food access). Walnut Way

developed a program that teaches teens how to garden, using the backyards of senior homeowners or renters. Produce grown is split between the seniors, the teens, and teens for sell at Farmers market. This program provides employment, food access, and improved safety as seniors and teens become familiar with each other. Food access is most frequently tied to jobs & job creation.

We talked about some grocery store initiatives in her experience and one thing that caused some to fail was disagreement among the residents about what kind of neighborhood are they - are they Whole Foods? Pick & Save? Aldi?

Lens to view community organizations: do they view residents as clients (people who receive services, org is paid by govt) or customers? She's seen neighborhoods where the community orgs said they were cooperating, but in fact they were competing for the same "customers" and didn't share. Only when this competition "shook out" and there was one top dog for each issue was a cooperative state achieved.