



NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT REPORT

CREATING STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS



Greater Milwaukee
FOUNDATION
greater together

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

When it comes to neighborhoods, place matters. We all know that where we live greatly influences how we live. Many of the factors that define our quality of life — economic security, health and safety, proximity to school or work, access to services and resources, and connections to neighbors — are related to the vitality of our neighborhoods and our city.

Vibrant neighborhoods are the lifeblood of any community. An investment in healthy neighborhoods, therefore, is an investment in the people who live there. This belief, coupled with the generosity of donors over generations, has helped guide the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's neighborhood grantmaking, partnerships and policy efforts.

Strengthening neighborhoods takes many forms. You see it in the conversion of a vacant lot to a pocket park. You realize it as physical improvements make a house feel more like a home. You experience it as community leaders emerge and neighbors come

together to build a better community by supporting one another.

The Foundation is committed to supporting ideas and initiatives — both large and small — developed and led by residents who care about making their neighborhood a better place to live, work and play. Success is possible as we bring residents, community-based organizations, businesses and donors together to work toward common aspirations. As you read these pages, you will see how stronger neighborhoods lead to a stronger region for us all, and the role each of us can play.

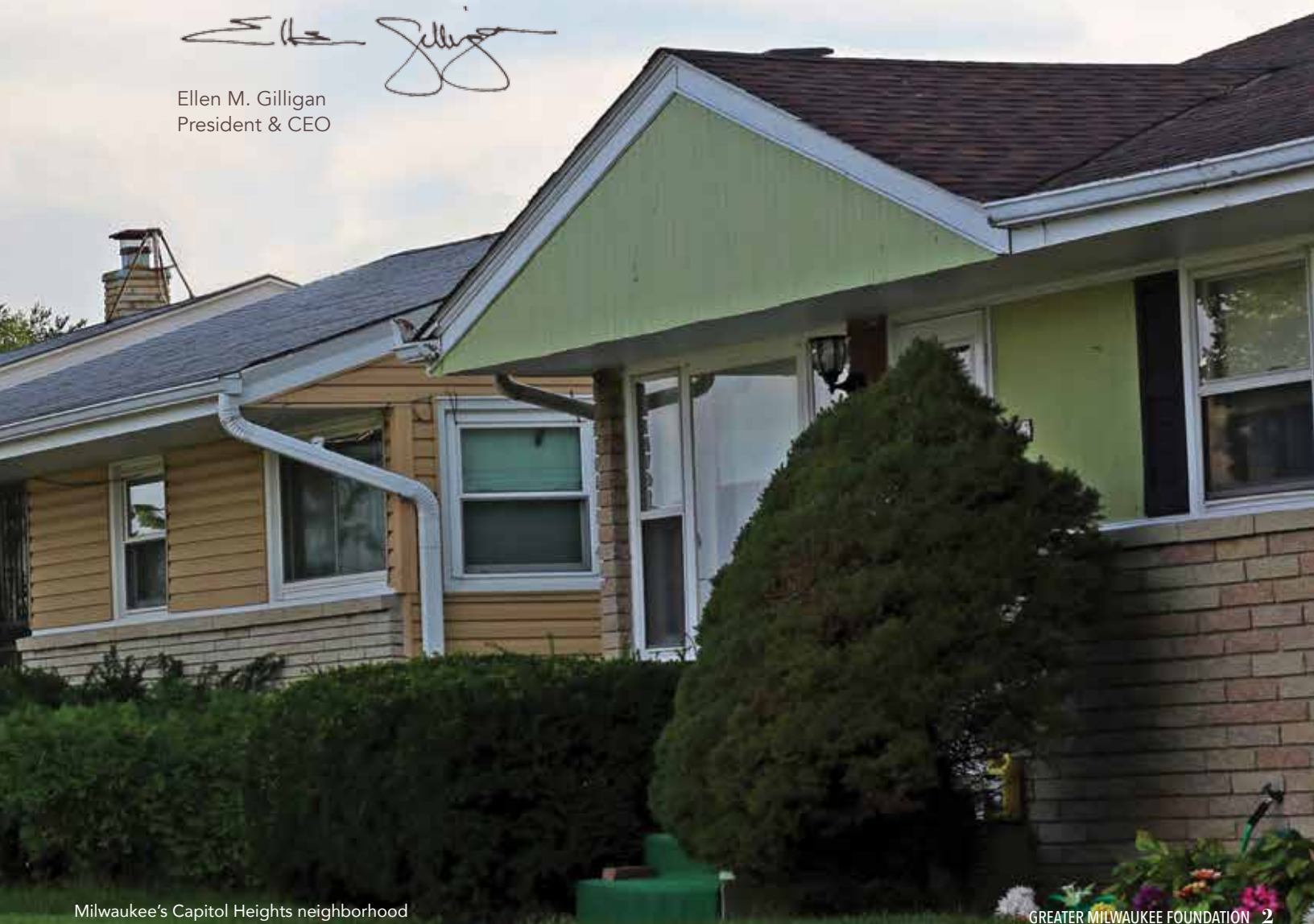


Ellen M. Gilligan

Yours in partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen M. Gilligan'.

Ellen M. Gilligan
President & CEO



On the trail to creativity

Community development initiative reactivates, revitalizes Beerline Trail

Milwaukee's Beerline Trail may seem like just a 1.3-mile stretch of pavement with touches of art that intersects two city neighborhoods.

But look more closely and the trail literally – and figuratively – represents a pathway to revitalization in two areas that have had their share of challenges.

How exactly? By using arts and culture as the common denominator and driving force.

That's what the Greater Milwaukee Committee, Riverworks Redevelopment Corporation and other partners envision with the Beerline Trail Neighborhood Project, a creative placemaking project that is developing new vibrancy along a once abandoned, blighted railway corridor.

Creative placemaking describes using arts and culture as a way to activate public spaces and shape

community redevelopment. Through art installations, events, and other performances, residents engage more with their neighbors and neighborhood. Art not only alters the landscape, it can also alter perceptions and build pride.

"It's a place for us to remember we are neighbors and a place to care about together," said Sara Daleiden, a consultant with the GMC on the project.

Creative placemaking reflects one of the Foundation's key neighborhood strategies — **strengthening physical, economic and social vitality of neighborhoods** — by putting arts and culture at the forefront of building social connections, which in turn shapes development. The Foundation has been a core funding partner.

Groundwork for the project was laid in 2010 when the city acquired the land,

but work began in earnest in 2014, thanks to investments by ArtPlace America and later by the Kresge Foundation, both known for creative placemaking work. Collectively, they have invested \$1.6 million.

"They are demonstrating some muscle in this space to do the work," said Michelle Johnson, program officer with the Kresge Foundation, about the project.

The trail has taken on new life thanks to open mic nights, murals and old shipping containers turned into temporary creative spaces. Fruit trees have been planted. Art installations, such as "Streetlights" by artist Tyanna Buie, have popped up.

Buie saw her creation, a visual depiction of the bridging together of two communities, as a metaphor for the larger project.



(Top) Old shipping containers were repurposed into performance spaces as part of the Beerline Trail Neighborhood Project.
(Bottom) Various design elements — such as these mosaic decorated tree stumps — add color to the trail.

"We are the people who make our community what it is," she said. "We need to be the light in our community."

Daleiden likens the Beerline's potential to Menomonee Valley's Three Bridges Park in that it rethinks old industrial space. But she and others see the trail and surrounding 8-acre linear park as much more.

"Trails and parks are a great way to stimulate development," she said. "There's a lot of room to imagine something new."

That imagining is powered by diverse partners and lots of resident input from the beginning, one of the tenets of creative placemaking. In 2015, 65 individuals, including residents, businesses, government and nonprofits, participated in a two-day session that led to seven

initiatives, including creative entrepreneur development and storybuilding.

Ultimately, the partners hope to see the project spur more integration between the two neighborhoods, increase property values and create a new paradigm for community development work.

Darryl Johnson, Riverworks' executive director, grew up blocks from the trail and regularly walked it to get to nearby Lincoln and Gordon parks. He's seen the blight in the area caused by the departure of American Motors Corporation in 1988, but also has witnessed incremental progress.

"I can see the momentum where things are starting to come back," he said. "The trail is one of those things we can definitely build upon."



Programs build leaders, capacity for long-term community change

In her church and in her community, Amani resident Octavia Parker has been a youth director, Sunday school teacher and former vice president of Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope.

She knew she had a gift for bringing people together, but didn't necessarily consider herself a leader. Thanks to the Neighborhood Leadership Institute and Building Neighborhood Capacity Program, the once behind-the-scenes volunteer is now a community organizer on the front lines of strengthening one of Milwaukee's most challenged and impoverished neighborhoods.

"They gave me a lot more confidence," said Parker, who was recruited to work for the Dominican Center for Women.

The programs aim at creating a broad base of community leaders like Parker and building up people power citywide that, once harnessed, can help revitalize

the entire community. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation has invested more than \$370,000 in such capacity-building programs, believing that by **engaging residents and developing their leadership skills**, they offer a more sustainable way of continuing the work in improving quality of life in neighborhoods.

NLI started in 2012 when several local funders who had long invested in nonprofits and programs, including the Foundation, Zilber Family Foundation and Northwestern Mutual Foundation, were looking to build neighborhood capacity in a different way. Through the 10-month program, 56 participants to date who work for a nonprofit or live in one of 23 neighborhoods have developed their leadership abilities, broadened their networks and learned best practices they can implement.

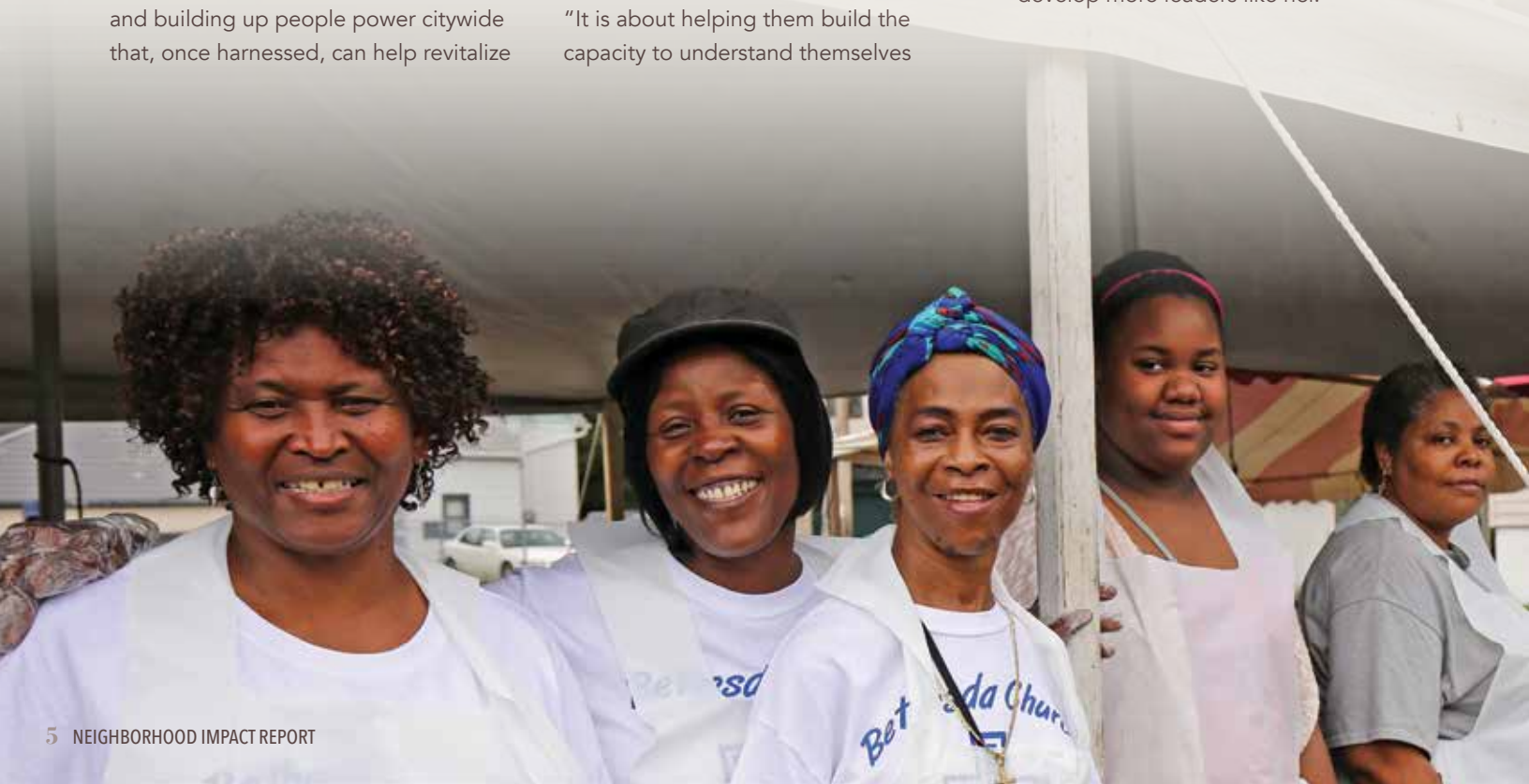
"It is about helping them build the capacity to understand themselves



Octavia Parker

and the influence they provide in neighborhoods," said Jeanette Mitchell, program director of Cardinal Stritch University's Leadership Center, who helped develop the curriculum.

Parker recognizes herself more as an asset within Amani and now, as a community organizer, is working to develop more leaders like her.



Big impact with small investments

Revitalizing neighborhoods take time. But sometimes the transformative spark can come from something as simple as a communitywide cookout spearheaded by a neighborhood resident.

Just ask Amani resident Octavia Parker. She helped organize Amani's first community cookout, which was held in a church parking lot. Over heaping plates of ribs, macaroni and cheese, collard greens and peach cobbler, more than 250 neighbors connected and the community was fed.

These kinds of activities don't require a huge investment – the gathering cost about \$1,200 – but they can create the kind of bonds that can fortify a neighborhood and bring about big change over time.

Community Connections Small Grants program provides up to \$750 to support such ideas from residents living and working in 23 neighborhoods in Milwaukee and Waukesha. The program was a byproduct of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute, a leadership training program created by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Northwestern Mutual Foundation and Zilber Family Foundation. NLI graduates review the projects, which are resident driven and implemented.

Since 2014, the program has invested more than \$41,000 in 74 projects. An additional \$102,766 has been matched by residents, who have volunteered nearly 3,000 hours to bring their ideas to life.

For more information on the program, visit www.ccsmallgrants.org.

"That is how we build neighborhood capacity," said Parker, who works with the Dominican Center's Building Neighborhood Capacity Program. "We feed off of each other."

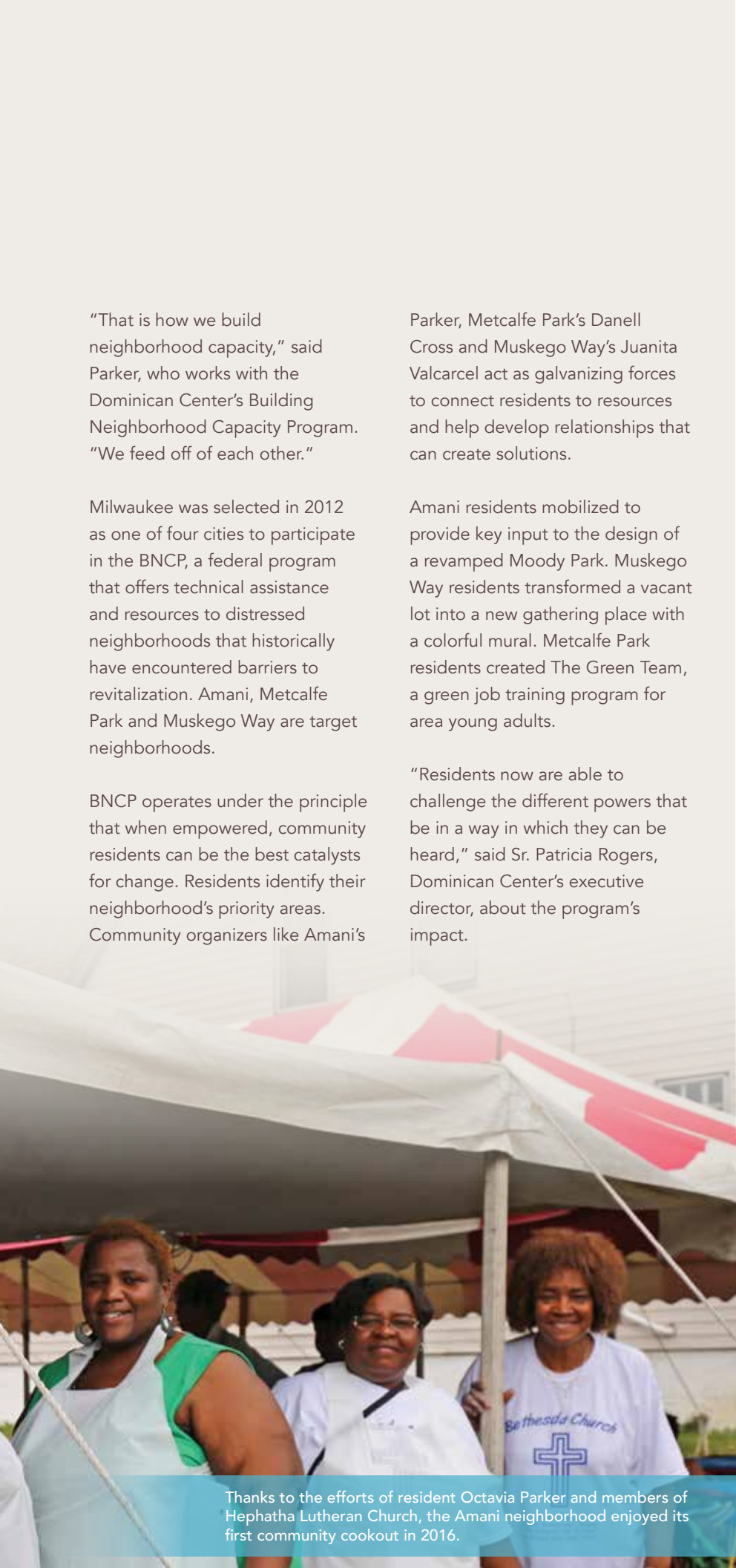
Milwaukee was selected in 2012 as one of four cities to participate in the BNCP, a federal program that offers technical assistance and resources to distressed neighborhoods that historically have encountered barriers to revitalization. Amani, Metcalfe Park and Muskego Way are target neighborhoods.

BNCP operates under the principle that when empowered, community residents can be the best catalysts for change. Residents identify their neighborhood's priority areas. Community organizers like Amani's

Parker, Metcalfe Park's Danell Cross and Muskego Way's Juanita Valcarcel act as galvanizing forces to connect residents to resources and help develop relationships that can create solutions.

Amani residents mobilized to provide key input to the design of a revamped Moody Park. Muskego Way residents transformed a vacant lot into a new gathering place with a colorful mural. Metcalfe Park residents created The Green Team, a green job training program for area young adults.

"Residents now are able to challenge the different powers that be in a way in which they can be heard," said Sr. Patricia Rogers, Dominican Center's executive director, about the program's impact.

A photograph showing three women smiling and standing under a white tent with red and white striped valances. The woman on the left is wearing a green top and a white apron. The woman in the middle is wearing a white shirt and a white apron. The woman on the right is wearing a white t-shirt with a blue cross logo and the text "Bethesda Church".

Thanks to the efforts of resident Octavia Parker and members of Hephatha Lutheran Church, the Amani neighborhood enjoyed its first community cookout in 2016.



Dottie Hackett (pictured with her son, Marquis) was one of 37 homeowners who benefited from the Foundation's minor home improvement grant program.

Small improvements make big difference for area homeowners

Like many homeowners, Dottie Hackett had a list of maintenance projects for her house in Milwaukee's Havenwoods neighborhood – but not always the money to pay for them.

Fortunately, through a grant program for exterior home improvements provided by a partnership among the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Wells Fargo and the city of Milwaukee,

she was able to add new siding and energy-efficient windows to her three-bedroom home.

Under the Healthy Neighborhoods Minor Home Improvement Pilot Program, qualified homeowners in the Havenwoods, Capitol Heights and Lincoln Village neighborhoods could apply for matching grants up to \$3,000. The minimum allowable project was \$800, and homeowners

were required to contribute at least 25 percent of the total project cost.

The three eligible neighborhoods are part of the Foundation's Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative, a public-private partnership with the city of Milwaukee that **invests in the physical conditions, positive image, social connections and stabilization of specific city neighborhoods.**

Havenwoods is a working-class neighborhood on the city's northwest side, with tree-lined streets and small, affordable homes. In recent years, more families with children have moved in, Hacket said.

Hacket's son, Marquis, and a friend installed the blue siding ("blue is my favorite color," Hacket said). The new windows tip inwards, making them easier for her to clean.

"I am truly blessed in being able to get this work done with the help of the grants program," Hacket said, adding that her home may have been the first in the neighborhood with a completed project.

Since moving to Milwaukee from Minnesota in the 1970s, Hacket, 63, has held a number of jobs, including working in a factory and selling life insurance. For the past 10 years, she has worked as an in-home caregiver for the elderly.

"Helping maintain strong neighborhoods is a key part of Wells Fargo's commitment to Milwaukee," said Sang Kim, Wells Fargo region president for Wisconsin. "We're pleased to join forces with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the city on this important initiative that will help homeowners make necessary repairs and improvements to their homes. We know our contribution is a small part of the overall effort, yet we hope it will make a big difference to homeowners and the community."

Hacket learned about the program at a community meeting sponsored by the Havenwoods Economic Development Corp., a nonprofit focused on improving the quality of life in the neighborhood. She filled out an application and received the required two competitive bids for the work. Having her son install the siding kept her costs down.

"Homeownership is key to strong neighborhoods," said Mayor Tom Barrett, a strong supporter of the Foundation and its Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative. "We look forward to continuing our work in the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative as well as our partnership with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and Wells Fargo to support committed Milwaukee homeowners and help them make improvements to their homes and neighborhoods."



BEFORE: Time had taken its toll on the front steps of one Havenwoods home.



AFTER: A \$1,350 grant contributed to the replacement of the front porch and sidewalk.



A team of Riverworks Ambassadors at Cherry Street Park

From vacant to verdant

It's not easy to take blighted properties in a central city food desert and create magnetic gathering spaces with free access to fresh food.

In 2015, over the course of 10 months in some of Milwaukee's most vulnerable neighborhoods, 28 vacant lots were transformed into such vibrant corners thanks to a public/private partnership that included the city, Greater Milwaukee Foundation and other local partners.

The Foundation was awarded a \$75,000 Bloomberg Award for Partners for Places, a project of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, and also contributed \$25,000 toward planning, design and construction of six sustainable pocket parks and 14 orchard parks. The Fund for Lake Michigan, Northwestern Mutual, and Zilber Family foundations also collectively provided \$50,000.

Each lot was designed with resident input to meet their neighborhood's

unique needs, encouraging them to take pride and ownership. Nearly a dozen residents brought the sites to life after being trained by Groundwork Milwaukee's Green Team. All sites have a neighborhood sponsor, such as a church or nonprofit, that assumes ownership of maintenance and future activities.

Creating such beautiful spaces is a key strategy toward improving a neighborhood, the Foundation believes, but they also provide much



Scholars Park

more – namely they **build social connections and a sense of community.**

“It’s really about using fruit trees as a vehicle to try and increase public health, decrease crime, increase property values and increase neighborhood cohesion,” said Tim McCollow, project manager with Milwaukee’s Environmental Collaboration Office.



MLK Jr. Peace Place Park



WHAT IS A HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD?

Milwaukee is a city built on neighborhoods with many different assets and unique characteristics. Some neighborhoods have thriving commercial areas and continue to attract new residents while retaining long-time neighbors. Others lack access to basic amenities such as fresh food and green spaces. Milwaukee also is home to neighborhoods that are at a tipping point. Without the right investment strategies, they are challenged to stabilize and strengthen and attract new residents.

In this section of the report, you'll learn more about our targeted strategy to strengthen 13 such middle market neighborhoods, which are part of our Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative. Modeled after a similar concept in Baltimore, HNI is just one of the ways in which we seek to strengthen our city's neighborhoods. Like with all of our neighborhood grantmaking work, we

seek to build partnerships across the city to further leverage public and private resources to support resident leadership, public safety initiatives and address common citywide concerns. Since 2005, we've invested more than \$4 million through HNI. During that time, more than 900 block activities and community events have engaged more than 50,000 residents. Neighborhood-based nonprofits have helped residents improve more than 1,300 properties representing more than \$25 million in reinvestment.

We are quite proud of all that has been accomplished to date and are grateful to all the nonprofits, donors, city leaders and especially the neighborhood residents for providing their time, talent and energy to help strengthen our city. We look forward to continuing to partner together on such important work.

INVESTMENT AND ENGAGEMENT IN HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

Total investment in
Healthy Neighborhoods

\$4 million

Number of
block activities and
community events

900

Number of
residents engaged

50,000

Number of
properties improved

1,300

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS BOUNDARIES

CAPITOL HEIGHTS

North: West Congress Street
South: West Capitol Drive
East: North 61st Street
West: North 68th Street

HARAMBEE

North: West Vienna Avenue
South: East Burleigh Street
East: North Holton Street
West: I-43

RIVERWEST

North: East Vienna Avenue
South: East Burleigh Street
East: North Humboldt Boulevard
West: North Holton Street

HAVENWOODS

North: West Good Hope Road
South: West Silver Spring Drive
East: North 43rd Street
West: North 76th Street

KINNICKINNICK RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD

North: West Lincoln Avenue
South: West Oklahoma Avenue
East: I-94
West: South 27th Street

LAYTON BOULEVARD WEST NEIGHBORHOODS

SILVER CITY

North: Menomonee River Valley
South: West Greenfield Avenue
East: South Layton Boulevard
West: Miller Parkway

BURNHAM PARK

North: West Greenfield Avenue
South: West Becher Street
East: South Layton Boulevard
West: Miller Parkway

LAYTON PARK

North: West Becher Street
South: West Lincoln Avenue
East: South Layton Boulevard
West: Miller Parkway

SHERMAN PARK

North: West Capitol Drive
South: West North Avenue
East: North 30th Street
West: North 60th Street

THURSTON WOODS

North: West Douglas Avenue
South: West Silver Spring Drive
East: North Teutonia Avenue
West: North Sherman Boulevard

OLD NORTH MILWAUKEE

North: West Silver Spring Drive
South: West Villard Avenue
East: North 27th Street
West: North Sherman Boulevard

WAUKESHA

DUNBAR OAKS

North: West Park Avenue
South: West Newhall Avenue
East: North West Avenue
West: North Dunbar Avenue

TOWER HILL

North: Summit Avenue
South: Madison Street
East: Randall Street
West: North Washington Avenue

WAUKESHA COUNTY PARTICIPATING NEIGHBORHOODS



MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARTICIPATING NEIGHBORHOODS





HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

CAPITOL HEIGHTS

A community of homeowners and calm streets, Capitol Heights lies at the heart of Milwaukee's northwest side.

The area has a high level of homeownership, comprised of modest-sized bungalows, Cape Cod, and ranch style homes built in the 1940s and '50s. Within recent years, more than two dozen homes have been sold in the larger Capitol Heights area with selling prices ranging from \$22,000 to \$161,000.

The area's community development efforts are led by the Capitol Heights Neighborhood Association, which implements programs to beautify the neighborhood, create cohesion among neighbors, and provide opportunities to neighborhood youth.

Its Summer Youth Work Program illustrates the spirit of community in Capitol Heights. It was developed in 2010 by a handful of neighbors hoping to maintain their neighborhood and provide positive outlets to young people. The program helps teenagers establish healthy work habits, while paying them to mow lawns, edge yards, trim bushes, and wash windows for more than 60 area homes each summer.

While the neighborhood is heavily residential, education has a major presence in the community. Capitol Heights is home to Milwaukee Marshall High School, Blessed Savior Catholic School, and

Milwaukee School of Environmental Sciences, a year-round Milwaukee Public School charter school. Capitol Library, a Milwaukee Public Library branch built in 1964, is a few blocks away from the neighborhood.

Capitol Heights is a block from Dineen Park, a beautiful 64.2-acre Milwaukee County Park that offers a well-lit baseball diamond, open fields, play area with swings, park pavilion, lagoon for fishing and disc golf.

The neighborhood is in close proximity to major retail and shopping destinations. In addition to the shops found along Capitol Drive, Capitol Heights borders the Midtown Shopping Center, which includes a grocery store and major national chains. The area is also home to Kitt's, a vintage custard stand known by generations of Milwaukeeans for its tasty frozen treats.

While many longtime Milwaukeeans call Capitol Heights home, some of the city's newest community members have found a place in the neighborhood. The Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce provides Hmong and Southeast Asian entrepreneurs with financial resources, technical assistance, and guidance. Moving to Capitol Heights in 2011, the Pan African Community Association provides African immigrants in Milwaukee a wide range of support, including educational programs, mentorship, business support, and refugee resettlement.

CAPITOL HEIGHTS DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL POPULATION

3,666



Male
47%



Female
53%

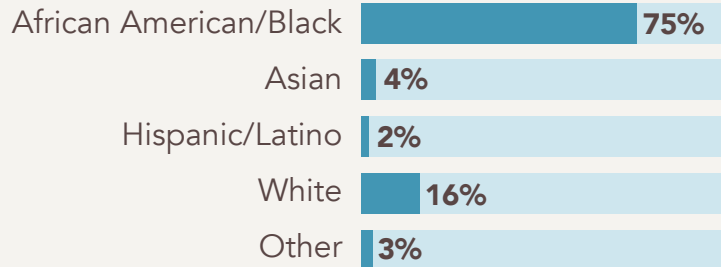
886

of families

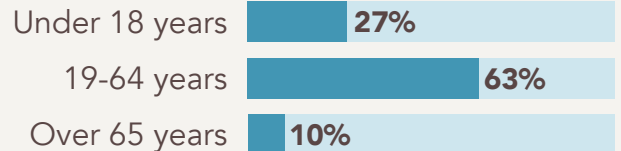
1,281

of households

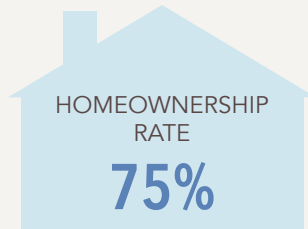
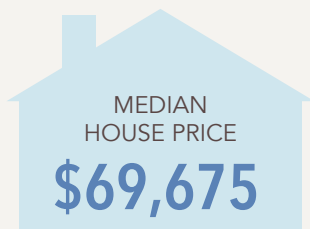
RACE AND ETHNICITY



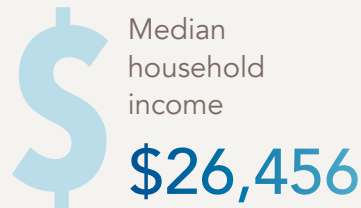
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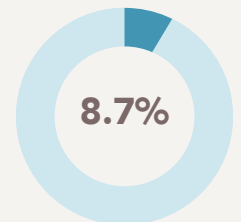
HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS



INCOME



UNEMPLOYMENT



Data are from the 2014 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census and represent areas that are slightly larger than the different neighborhood boundaries.

WHAT RESIDENTS ARE SAYING

“

In 1994, my husband Clarence and I purchased our home here in Capitol Heights. We were young and knew that this neighborhood would be one in which we could raise our two young children.

In recent years, I have volunteered to work our annual flower sale, as well as walked through Capitol Heights and picked up litter. Our home was recently selected to participate in a pilot program to improve its appearance, which allowed us to replace our front windows and do some landscaping.

Living here gives us a sense of warmth. All of our neighbors really do care about their homes and have become the safety net that holds us together. Being an example of a wonderful neighborhood brings joy to my soul.



Annette Levy



HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

DUNBAR OAKS/TOWER HILL

In the heart of Waukesha, Dunbar Oaks and Tower Hill are historic neighborhoods that are gaining momentum as they come together.

Both neighborhoods are situated adjacent to and within walking distance of downtown Waukesha, which features shops, music, and restaurants.

Both also have deep roots in Waukesha history. Dunbar Oaks was named after Colonel Richard Dunbar and his namesake white oak tree, which was closely associated with Waukesha's historic Bethesda Springs. Tower Hill's name came from a 75-foot wooden observation tower built in 1874, located near the present site of Waukesha Memorial Hospital.

The neighborhoods are home to a wealth of parks, including Dopp, Bethesda Spring and Saratoga. In Tower Hill, Horeb Spring Park also contains the Horeb Aquatic Center, which includes a pool, slides, diving boards, and more. On the edge of Dunbar Oaks in the Fox River Sanctuary, Glacial Drumlin Trail has its eastern trailhead, running 52 miles west to Cottage Grove. Dunbar Oaks also features the only city-approved dog walk in Waukesha.

The neighborhoods offer charming, historical, and affordable homes that include a variety of styles, including Cape Cod and ranch homes. Major anchors

in the area include Waukesha Memorial Hospital, Blair Elementary School, St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the Salvation Army, where residents convene monthly for a neighborhood association meeting. Additionally, the landmark Blair House is under new ownership and will be renovated and reopened as the Spring City Bed and Breakfast.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Waukesha County works with residents in creating projects to improve quality of life in both neighborhoods. This includes organizing a wide variety of social events, coordinating with realtors in the area, advocating for speed calming on Madison Street, maintaining a community garden, working with local businesses and more.

In Dunbar Oaks, residents gather each month to clean up Bethesda Park in their neighborhood. A neighborhood meeting is held immediately afterward. The Waukesha Parks Department has posted a sign at the park acknowledging the neighborhood's efforts.

In 2015, Tower Hill's Madison Street Pocket Park was completed on a vacant lot on a gateway entrance to the neighborhood. The park was created by residents, who pooled their resources and efforts to transform the lot into a gathering place for neighbors that also communicates the neighborhood's identity.

DUNBAR OAKS/TOWER HILL DEMOGRAPHICS

DUNBAR OAKS

TOTAL POPULATION

3,427

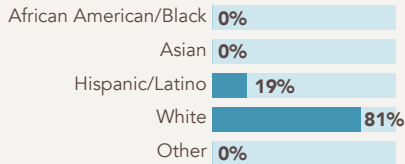


Male
52%



Female
48%

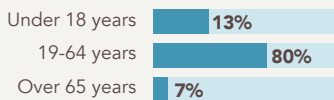
RACE AND ETHNICITY



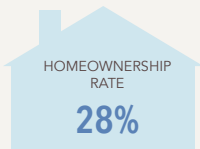
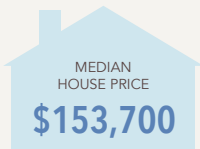
494
of families

1,134
of households

AGE



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

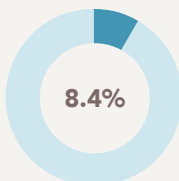


INCOME

Median household income

\$34,375

UNEMPLOYMENT



TOWER HILL

TOTAL POPULATION

4,486

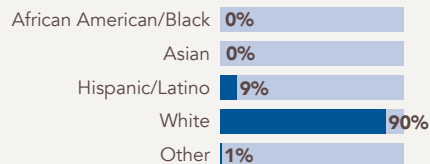


Male
51%



Female
49%

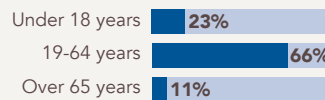
RACE AND ETHNICITY



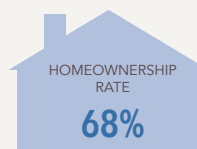
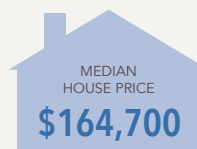
1,121
of families

1,954
of households

AGE



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

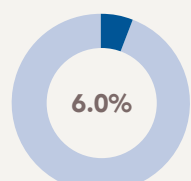


INCOME

Median household income

\$51,505

UNEMPLOYMENT



Data are from the 2014 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census and represent areas that are slightly larger than the different neighborhood boundaries.

WHAT RESIDENTS ARE SAYING



The greatest benefit of being part of the Tower Hill Neighborhood group is the voice and empowerment it has given us. Since we moved here in 1978, I have felt we were a forgotten neighborhood: inadequate signage, poorly maintained streets, a hospital that overnight bought up houses to expand its facility. We were given no voice, formed no voice, and remained silent.

Tower Hill has given us that voice. Most important is the opportunities to meet many neighbors not in our same block. Now, I see homes being renovated, expanded, improved. Yards have beautiful gardens, new garages, driveways redone, decks and patios added... it is very exciting. People see Tower Hill as a place to make a home.



Kris Nestingen-Palm



HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

HARAMBEE/RIVERWEST

Harambee is a hub of African American culture and heritage, while Riverwest is a community fiercely proud of its diversity. Separated by Holton Street, these neighboring communities illustrate Milwaukee's profound issues with segregation and racial equity. The realities of life in both are largely divergent, with disparities in income levels, health outcomes, education, homeownership, and more.

In light of these challenges, Riverworks Development Corporation, an established stakeholder in both Harambee and Riverwest with a strong track record in business and community development, is working to create cohesion between the two communities.

The Beerline Community Development Initiative is an example of early success toward those goals as it brings together community members around the creation of a trail that runs through both neighborhoods and is driven by arts, culture, and creative entrepreneurship.

HARAMBEE

Harambee is Swahili for "all pulling together," a phrase that's doubled as a rallying cry for the community since it was adopted in the mid-70s.

A handful of community organizations function as Harambee's backbone, including Northcott Neighborhood House, Harambee Great Neighborhood Initiative, HeartLove Place, All People's Church and Clinton Rose Senior Center.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive is Harambee's major thoroughfare, featuring historic buildings and new commercial developments, such as the mixed-use

King Drive Commons. King Drive also hosts a major Juneteenth Day event, a perennial opportunity for the community to celebrate together.

Harambee is connected to efforts to create the Bronzeville Arts and Culture District, located to the south. The effort has gained steam in recent years, with many Harambee artists and entrepreneurs leading the charge.

RIVERWEST

Riverwest embraces its identity as a community built around ethnic and cultural diversity.

Its many community ventures include a cooperative grocery store, community newspaper, volunteer-run radio station and the country's first cooperatively owned bar. An eclectic range of restaurants, cafes, art galleries, and businesses are concentrated on Center Street and Locust Avenue, with others dotted on corners and blocks outside of the main commercial corridors.

The spirit of the neighborhood comes out at signature annual events like Locust Street Days, Center Street Daze, the Riverwest Art Walk, and the Riverwest 24, a 24-hour bike race and community celebration. In recent years, the Skyline Music Series produced by COA Youth & Family Centers at Kadish Park has become a popular gathering place for neighbors.

The northern portion of both neighborhoods is occupied by an industrial corridor once home to American Motors and Johnsons Controls. Today, the area remains an active economic driver, with occupants ranging from creative craftspeople to heavy industry.

HARAMBEE/RIVERWEST DEMOGRAPHICS

HARAMBEE

TOTAL POPULATION

7,198

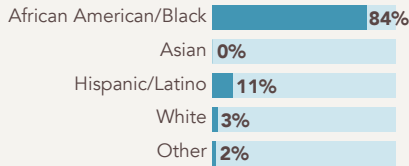


Male
49%



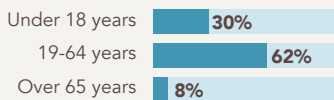
Female
51%

RACE AND ETHNICITY



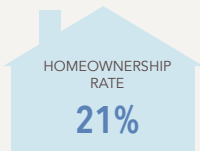
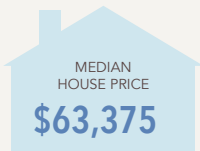
6,158
of families

AGE



7,170
of households

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

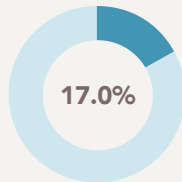


INCOME

Median household income

\$23,451

UNEMPLOYMENT



RIVERWEST

TOTAL POPULATION

5,729

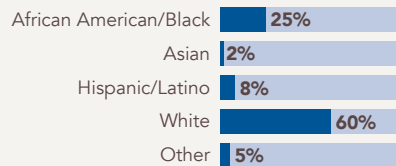


Male
51%



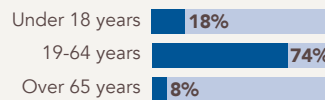
Female
49%

RACE AND ETHNICITY



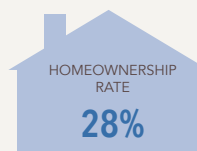
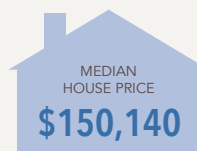
2,937
of families

AGE



5,717
of households

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

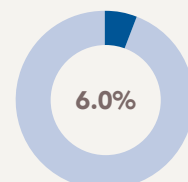


INCOME

Median household income

\$34,883

UNEMPLOYMENT



Data are from the 2014 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census and represent areas that are slightly larger than the different neighborhood boundaries.

WHAT RESIDENTS ARE SAYING



My neighborhood is a great place to live. Most of the time, I sit here with my storm door unlocked and when my kids are around, we sit on the front porch together.

The goal over here is safety first. I'm an active member of the Keefe Avenue Safety Task Force and I also work with neighborhood youth. Three days a week in the summer months, I volunteer doing arts and crafts in the pocket park on 2nd and Keefe. I even helped build that pocket park with my children and grandchildren.

The kids learn how to color, make crafts, play games together and be respectful. For many kids, in the summer, they're left at home and can't go outside unless they have a supervised activity. We pass out fliers so their families know that it's a safe place to go.



Tressie Sneed



HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

HAVENWOODS

Quietly thriving on Milwaukee's far northwest side, Havenwoods is a unique mingling of tranquil residential streets, established industry, and beautiful green space.

Efforts to revitalize the neighborhood are led by Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation, which works closely with residents and the business community. Responding to the needs of the neighborhood, its projects run the gamut from business roundtables to art projects, public safety initiatives to a summer concert series.

The area includes many reasonably priced homes, including Milwaukee bungalows, ranch houses, duplexes and Cape Cods. Havenwoods also is home to KANDO, Milwaukee's first landlord compact, which ensures local landlords are actively engaged in their rental properties and the community.

From global enterprises to deep-rooted family owned businesses, an impressive assortment of companies is located in Havenwoods. Among the 250 businesses, industries include metal fabrication, industrial printing, paint and chemical technologies, plastic injection molding and health care equipment. The large number of employers is reflected by the area's employment rate, which is higher than the city's average.

The neighborhood takes its name from Havenwoods State Forest, Milwaukee's only state forest. Just a block off Sherman Boulevard, residents can access 237 acres of grasslands, woods, and wetlands, in addition to six miles of trail, four ponds and a nature center. The forest

recently became home to an annual 5K-10K run/walk benefiting neighborhood revitalization projects.

Growing Power, a pioneering urban agriculture organization, has its headquarters in Havenwoods, which includes a large urban farm and produce market. Its work creating access to high quality, affordable food has deeply influenced communities around Milwaukee, the Midwest, and the world.

Just off 76th Street and Mill Road, Phongsavan Market is an emblem of the Hmong community's rise in Milwaukee. It began in a former auto shop, quickly becoming crowded with vendors selling a wide range of cultural products and produce. Success has spurred the market to build a new 84,000-square-foot facility next door that will expand its offerings to serve the area's growing Hmong community and residents from around Milwaukee.

Additionally, along 76th Street and Silver Spring Drive, Havenwoods features locally-owned businesses and restaurants, as well as national chains.

At the neighborhood's southern edge, the Westlawn housing development is in the midst of a public housing triumph. The original harsh, barrack-style buildings were replaced by handsomely designed townhouses, single-family units and multi-family apartments that are breaking new ground for affordable housing. With the latest distinction of being named a Choice Neighborhood by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the remaining portion of Westlawn Gardens will be reconstructed by 2020.

HAVENWOODS DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL POPULATION

22,169



Male
45%



Female
55%

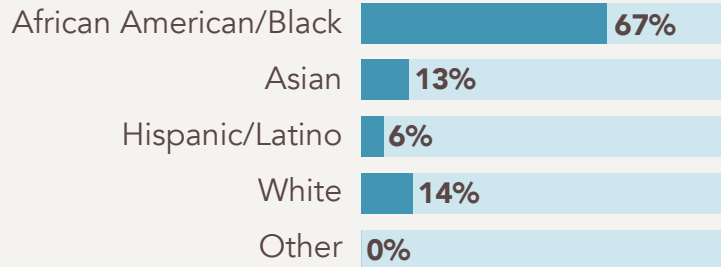
5,485

of families

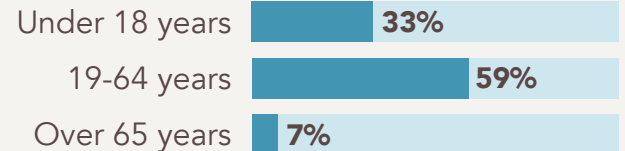
7,816

of households

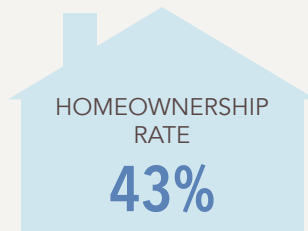
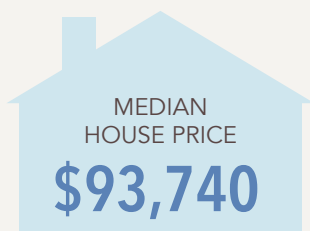
RACE AND ETHNICITY



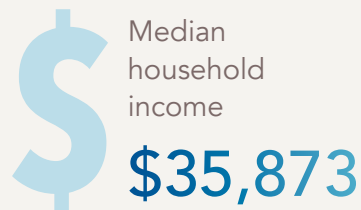
AGE



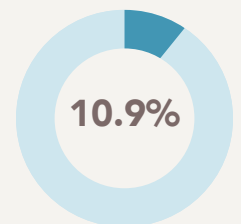
HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS



INCOME



UNEMPLOYMENT



Data are from the 2014 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census and represent areas that are slightly larger than the different neighborhood boundaries.

WHAT RESIDENTS ARE SAYING

“

After renting in the neighborhood with my husband Dean and our two daughters, we bought our first home on 69th Street in 1997. We moved across the street from our niece and nephew, who are homeowners too.

This area was a great place to raise our family and we made it our neighborhood. Our daughters grew up here, attending nearby schools. For over 20 years, I've worked at Kluge Elementary School, a few blocks from our home. My husband also worked at Kluge as a basketball coach, and since he retired, he continues working with youth at Vincent High School as a referee. I've also volunteered for 10 years at Silver Spring Neighborhood Center.

We are very active members of our neighborhood because we've lived, worked and educated our children here.



Ruth, Deanna and Dean Moore



HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

KINNICKINNICK RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD

Known for some of the South Side's most iconic landmarks, like the Basilica of St. Josaphat and Forest Home Cemetery, this neighborhood is working to revive another defining feature — the Kinnickinnick River. As the community anticipates its river's restoration, fresh energy is emerging in the Kinnickinnick River Neighborhood.

The area has a population of more than 28,750 residents occupying 9,040 households. Once a stronghold of Milwaukee's Polish population, today the neighborhood's households are 65 percent of Latino origin with 35 percent residents under age 18.

It is a densely populated residential neighborhood with blocks of classic Milwaukee one- and two-story homes and duplexes. The area also features a number of Polish flats, a two-family home with one unit stacked on top of the other, which is a signature of the South Side.

Additionally, the neighborhood is served by commercial corridors on Lincoln Avenue and South 13th Street, both with the feel of traditional main streets. Each thoroughfare features many locally owned businesses, with everything from Mexican restaurants and bakeries to bike shops and Polish grocery stores. Pockets of industry still operate in the area too, with factories and warehouses dotted along a railroad corridor that cuts through the neighborhood.

In recent years, the community has galvanized around efforts to improve the Kinnickinnick River. About 50 years ago, the waterway was lined with

concrete in an attempt to curb flooding, erasing the Kinnickinnick's appearance and function as a river. As the neighborhood grew, the channelized river contributed to deterioration of housing, led to public health problems, and ultimately proved ineffective in preventing flooding.

The long process of removing the concrete lining and returning a natural riverbed has begun, led by the Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers and Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. In the Kinnickinnick River Neighborhood, approximately 2.5 miles of channelized river will be renaturalized, including a portion already completed at the eastern end of the neighborhood that connects to a new bike trail.

Additionally, investments in the river have spurred the KK River Neighbors in Action, a local community group, to identify and implement projects in the surrounding neighborhood. Residents are connecting to home resources; youth are doing tree identification and mapping locations for green infrastructure; the neighborhood's spring river cleanup, summer picnic and winter celebration are growing; Pulaski Park is seeing new investments, like the colorful art benches co-created by neighborhood families.

As residents welcome a healthier river and work collectively toward an improved quality of life, the Kinnickinnick River Neighborhood is a historic neighborhood brimming with new potential.

KINNICKINNIC RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL POPULATION

28,750



Male
49%



Female
51%

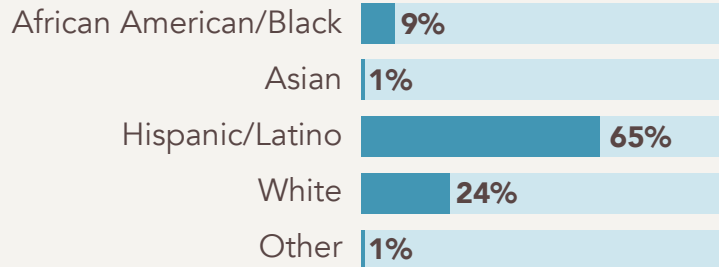
6,192

of families

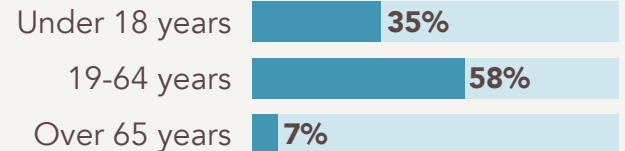
9,040

of households

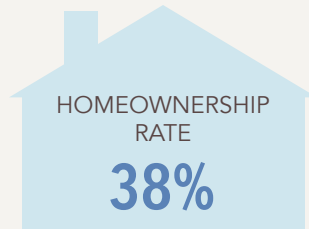
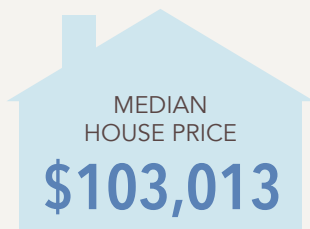
RACE AND ETHNICITY



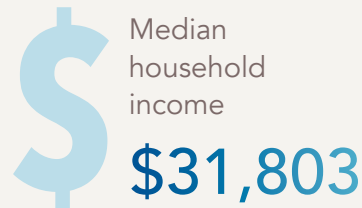
AGE



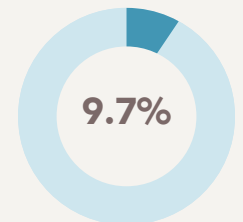
HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS



INCOME



UNEMPLOYMENT



Data are from the 2014 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census and represent areas that are slightly larger than the different neighborhood boundaries.

WHAT RESIDENTS ARE SAYING

“

Soledad Nuñez and her husband, Isidrio, have contributed to their community in many ways, from meeting new people to befriending whole families. Their main focus, has been with the community gardens. For Soledad, the community gardens are a metaphor for community. “Community is nourishment...you maintain them and watch them grow. It is nice to be able to have good, nourishing relationships in the neighborhood.” She also feels that the communication is one of the neighborhood’s best qualities.

Isidrio and Soledad hope to see their community grow, even though there is sometimes a language barrier. Soledad’s recommendation to her neighbors is “coexistence!” In order to reach that goal, she suggests “talking to neighbors, respecting gardens, keeping your area clean, and respect each other’s spaces.”



Isidrio and Soledad Nuñez



HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

LAYTON BOULEVARD WEST

SILVER CITY | BURNHAM PARK | LAYTON PARK

The Layton Boulevard West neighborhoods - Silver City, Burnham Park, and Layton Park – are a community of young families and historic homes; ethnic diversity and deep-rooted culture; nascent possibilities and time-tested Milwaukee values.

Layton Boulevard West Neighbors works across the three neighborhoods and has evolved into one of Milwaukee's preeminent community development organizations. The group supports home sales and improvements, catalyzes economic development, facilitates improvements to public spaces, and plays a key role in building cohesion among residents.

Layton Boulevard West is home to everyone from new arrivals from around the world to longtime homeowners, with a population that is predominantly Latino, with substantial white, Asian and African American populations. The area was developed during Milwaukee's industrial heyday, drawing families of laborers and machinists as well as professionals and business owners. This socioeconomic mix is still intact, with neighbors reflecting the whole range of middle and working class.

Its housing stock includes Frank Lloyd Wright structures, Arts and Crafts bungalows and classic brick colonials. These turn-of-the-century houses feature sound craftsmanship, unique architectural details, and classic stained glass windows.

Reflecting the community's diversity, an impressive selection of international restaurants has emerged. Silver City is a destination for Thai and Laotian dining.

Burnham Park has some of Milwaukee's best Mexican cuisine, while Layton Park features a popular European-style bakery.

To the north, the Menomonee Valley is reestablishing its role as an economic driver and reinventing itself as a natural resource. Residents are linked to these developments by the Valley Passage and Hank Aaron State Trail, which connect bicyclists, walkers, and runners to paved paths along the Menomonee River, running from Miller Park to downtown.

Additionally, a cluster of green and ecologically focused organizations has set up shop adjacent to the valley on Pierce Street. Led by the Urban Ecology Center, these groups are introducing new generations of children and community members to nature in their own backyard.

Layton Boulevard West also boasts a wide range of public spaces from botanical gardens to pocket parks and playgrounds. Major destinations include the iconic Mitchell Park Domes and Three Bridges Park, a new Milwaukee landmark. With busy soccer fields and baseball diamonds, Burnham Park is one of the city's most active parks and Arlington Heights Park was recently renovated as the first park in the MKE Plays initiative.

The neighborhood also features a variety of public, charter and private schools to meet every child's educational needs from kindergarten to high school. Schools are within walking distance of neighbors' homes and many offer bilingual education.

LAYTON BOULEVARD WEST DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL POPULATION

29,225



Male
50%



Female
50%

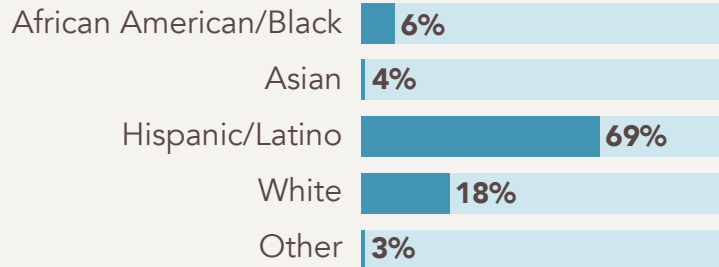
6,129

of families

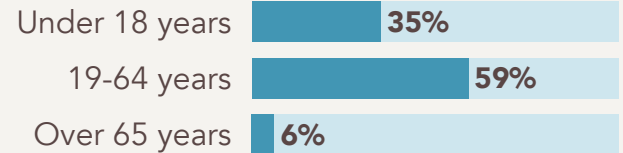
8,568

of households

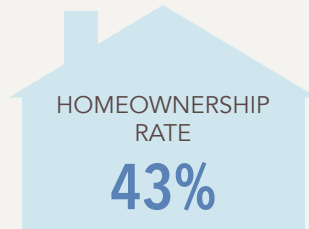
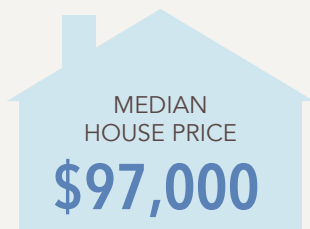
RACE AND ETHNICITY



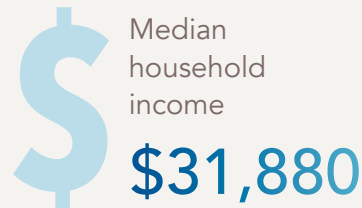
AGE



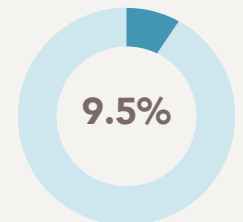
HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS



INCOME



UNEMPLOYMENT



Data are from the 2014 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census and represent areas that are slightly larger than the different neighborhood boundaries.

WHAT RESIDENTS ARE SAYING

“

Layton Boulevard West Neighbors told us about an address plaque project that had been done on another block and we were really interested in doing it on our block. We made some really great connections through the project! Now when we see each other, there is more trust between neighbors and we continue to get to know one another. Solidarity and unity; that is what makes a community.



Julio Raygoza & Glenda de Leon



HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

SHERMAN PARK

Sherman Park has long been a neighborhood where Milwaukee's most important work takes place. The community fought to remain integrated as segregation was taking hold in Milwaukee and endured as a bastion of middle class African-American families. More recently, the community grappled with unrest stemming from Milwaukee's most pressing challenges and has come together to create solutions.

The Sherman Park Community Association began in the 1970s by successfully organizing residents to prevent construction of a highway that would cut through the neighborhood. Today, it supports block clubs, coordinates community events, assists homeowners with home improvements and publishes Sherman Park Now!, a community newspaper.

Sherman Park has many community anchors like St. Joseph Hospital, Washington High School and Gee's Clipper Barber and Beauty Salon. It also is home to prominent community organizations like Urban Underground and Body & Soul Healing Arts Center.

Its housing stock reflects a wide range of styles, from simple to elaborate, with original craftsman design, hardwood floors and classic built-ins found throughout. In particular, Grant and Sherman boulevards are known for their architecturally notable homes. To accommodate the area's aging population, the 68-unit apartment Sherman Park Senior Living Center opened in the former Jackie Robinson Middle School in 2013.

In recent years, Common Ground's Milwaukee Rising initiative has worked with partners to make substantial

progress in rehabbing foreclosed homes near St. Joseph Hospital, reducing vacant properties from 300 in 2010 to 150 in 2015.

A number of major arteries run through Sherman Park, with small shops along commercial corridors on North Avenue, Center Street, Burleigh Street, and Capitol Drive. The area also features a wide selection of distinctive restaurants, including Jizzles Sandwich Shop, Reynold's Pasty Shop, Mekong Café, McBob's Pub & Grill and Sherman Perk, a neighborhood coffee shop.

Located in the geographic center, the neighborhood's namesake park is home to the Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club, a popular destination for neighborhood youth. Sherman Park is also near Washington Park, a crown jewel of the Milwaukee County Parks System.

Sherman Park is home to churches representing many Christian denominations. Additionally, a sizeable Orthodox Jewish community lives in the neighborhood, with a synagogue and K-8 school.

The neighborhood's eastern border is comprised of the 30th Street Industrial Corridor, which once housed manufacturing powerhouses like A.O. Smith and Cutler Hammer that employed scores of residents. While the area lost a significant number of jobs since its heyday, the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation is leading efforts to attract new businesses, while companies like Master Lock, United Milwaukee Scrap, The Simple Soyman and many others remain.

SHERMAN PARK DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL POPULATION

35,725



Male
46%

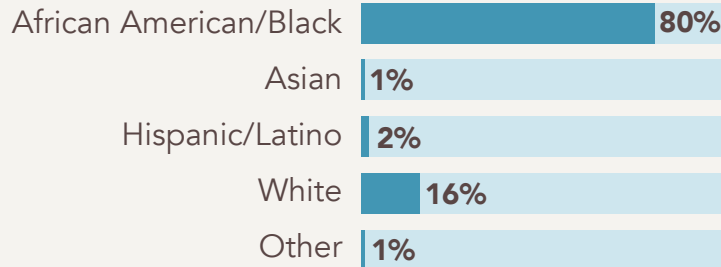


Female
54%

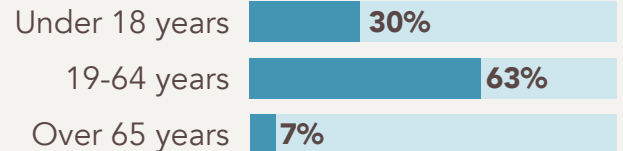
8,611
of families

13,305
of households

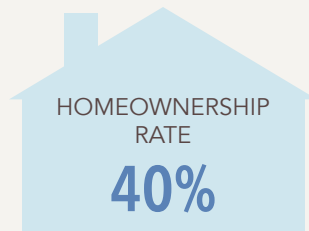
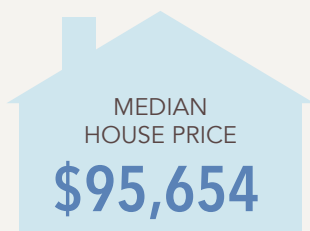
RACE AND ETHNICITY



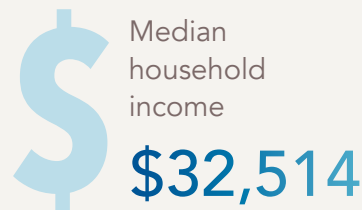
AGE



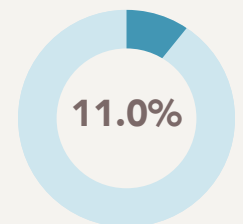
HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS



INCOME



UNEMPLOYMENT



Data are from the 2014 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census and represent areas that are slightly larger than the different neighborhood boundaries.

WHAT RESIDENTS ARE SAYING

“

I have been a proud resident of the Sherman Park community for over 30 years and purchased a home here 19 years ago. The Sherman Park community is where I raised my son and is where I am the proud principal of Townsend Street School. Nothing has brought me more joy than watching children play, families host picnics, bikers ride through the park and watching pet owners take their dogs on daily strolls. Needless to say, this is truly home for me.

I have a vested interest to see this neighborhood be resilient against the recent unrest that has upset our community and created division. I am committed to restoration and healing. I will remain in my community for the long haul. We, the residents of the Sherman Park community, are family and we acknowledge that together we stand, divided we fall.”



Redona Williams



HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

THURSTON WOODS/ OLD NORTH MILWAUKEE

Thurston Woods and Old North Milwaukee were once Milwaukee's countryside, until a housing boom after World War II transformed their landscapes into urban communities. Today, each neighborhood has retained a feel of their pastoral past, with streets lined by stately trees and a few blocks that remain without sidewalks or streetlights.

The Agape Community Center serves as an anchor organization for the area, providing after school and summer programs for youth, health services, career fairs, support for block clubs, a popular community meal and more. Agape's recent Yellow Chair Project has made a visible mark on the neighborhood, with bright Adirondack chairs painted by residents that can be found in front of homes throughout the community.

The area features a variety of architectural styles, with long blocks of well-built and affordable homes, including single-family houses and duplexes, as well as small multi-family buildings. Through the course of the area's history, both neighborhoods have welcomed waves of Milwaukeean, providing many with their first experience of homeownership.

Thurston Woods is home to Berryland, a 391-unit market rate rental development owned by the Housing Authority of Milwaukee that was built to house returning veterans. In Old North Milwaukee, the Villard

Square Grand Family Apartments were designed to accommodate the needs of grandparents caring for their grandchildren, with a branch of the Milwaukee Public Library located in the same building.

Commercial corridors along Silver Spring and Teutonia avenues serve both neighborhoods. Additionally, the main street along Villard Avenue features a variety of restaurants and unique shops. The area is also home to Jo's Cafe, a throwback diner whose lunch counter is a regular meeting place for locals.

A classic Milwaukee green space, Smith Park in Old North Milwaukee features a wading pool, tot lot, grove of trees, softball diamond and a pavilion. In Thurston Woods, the Agape Community Center helps maintain a longstanding community garden with residents. The neighborhoods are also walking distance from McGovern Park and Havenwoods State Forest.

Pieces of each community's storied history are still intact in the present day neighborhood. Thurston Woods is home to one of the oldest intact hand-hewn log homes in Milwaukee County, as well as the former home of Mayor Henry Maier, who lived in the neighborhood for part of his term as mayor. An independent suburb before being absorbed by Milwaukee, North Milwaukee's old village hall is still standing on 35th Street, just off Villard Avenue.

THURSTON WOODS/OLD NORTH MILWAUKEE DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL POPULATION

12,509



Male
44%



Female
56%

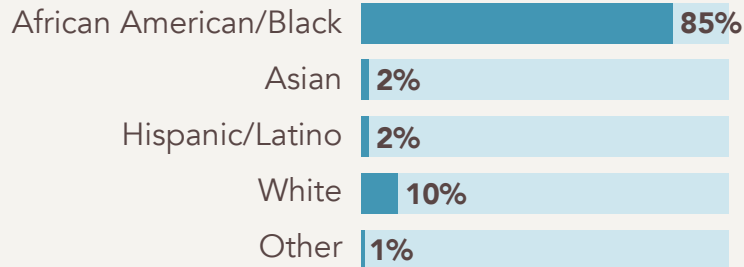
2,999

of families

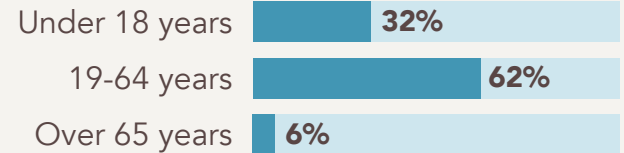
5,084

of households

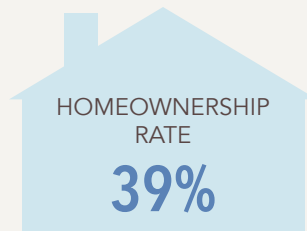
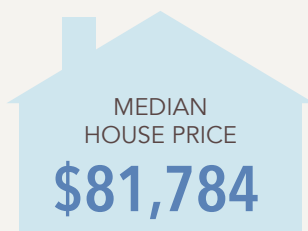
RACE AND ETHNICITY



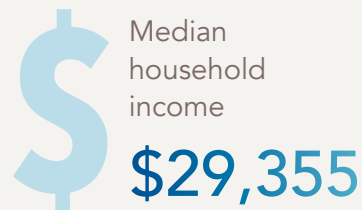
AGE



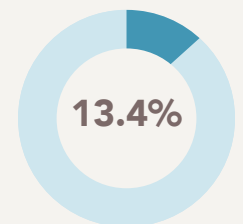
HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS



INCOME



UNEMPLOYMENT



Data are from the 2014 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census and represent areas that are slightly larger than the different neighborhood boundaries.

WHAT RESIDENTS ARE SAYING

“

Upon moving to the neighborhood, I noticed a difference — yellow chairs in my neighbors' yards. We wondered what they were and how we could get involved, only to discover a pamphlet about the yellow chairs was already in my mailbox.

I called immediately, but unfortunately, we were past the deadline. Luckily, the coordinator was willing to make an exception if we helped a neighbor incapable of building their own. My son Josiah and I said, “We would love to help build the chair for our neighbor!”

Our yellow chairs sit beautifully in our yard today and I feel proud. In our community, these chairs represent unity and security for each other and our children. They make my family feel welcome in this great neighborhood.



LaToya Smith and her children Josiah Reese, Jirah Reese and Jasmine Reese.



Wisconsin's largest corporate foundation committed to making hometown stronger

For nearly 160 years, Northwestern Mutual has been a committed and compassionate corporate citizen of metro Milwaukee. Through its foundation, the company aims to improve the lives of children and families in need through financial support, volunteerism, leadership and collaboration with community partners, like the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

Program Officer LaQuondra Shaw at Moody Park in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood, one of three neighborhoods the foundation supports.

The corporate foundation, has invested about \$300 million since its inception in 1992 to support causes and programs that make a lasting impact on the community. It refocused its neighborhood grantmaking strategy in 2013 to concentrate more on building resident capacity and connecting residents and communities to resources by supporting such efforts as the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program, Neighborhood Leadership Institute and Community Connections Small Grants Program.

Program officer LaQuondra Shaw explains the reason behind its strategy:

Why does Northwestern Mutual consider it important to invest in neighborhoods?

Milwaukee is home to our company and as good stewards we want to make sure that Milwaukee is a vibrant place to live, work and play for all residents. The strength of our city depends not only on the areas that are thriving per se, but also on the ones that face challenges. In order to be a strong city, all areas within must receive the tools and resources they need to thrive. Our improvements downtown are only one piece of the pie. In order to make this city great, we're responsible for also helping revitalize other neighborhoods.

Why did it decide to focus specifically on Milwaukee's Amani, Metcalfe Park and Muskego Way neighborhoods?

In looking at different neighborhoods to support, we found through



"Beauty Opens the Door That Joins Us," a new mural created in the Muskego Way neighborhood as a result of the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program.

research that some of the most distressed neighborhoods were some of the same neighborhoods that not many organizations and foundations were supporting. We decided to go where the need was great and little investment had been made. Amani, Metcalfe Park and Muskego Way are neighborhoods with many challenges, but they are also neighborhoods with incredible amounts of potential. Making investments in these neighborhoods gives residents opportunities and access to build their capacity. We've donated \$4 million since we started our neighborhoods portfolio.

Since neighborhood work typically takes a while to show impact, how do you keep patience as a funder?

As a corporate funder, of course we want to see a return on investment. Each quarter we analyze our progress, our gains and losses. In philanthropy, it's not that simple. Neighborhood work is broad and complex. It's sometimes slow and full of uncertainties. There are so many variables at play when it comes to neighborhood revitalization. We have to rely on the engagement of residents and look at neighborhood

issues differently. For example, crime stats in a neighborhood may show crime increasing, however, it could be that more people are reporting crime, which is really good for us because that means more people are engaged and saying, 'Hey we aren't going to tolerate this anymore.' As a funder, we understand that systemic change takes time. We do not take for granted the small wins and the accomplishment of short-term and intermediate outcomes.

What kind of outcomes do you look for in your neighborhood investments?

Measuring outcomes is a process. Our short-term outcomes include connecting residents to resources while our intermediate outcomes look at residents gaining knowledge and behavioral changes once they've been connected to resources. Our long-term outcomes evaluate conditions and system changes. We've seen what happens when you build the capacity of residents by connecting them to resources that ultimately impacts the entire neighborhood. It's quite amazing!



A generational commitment to giving back

To help the quality of life in the greater Milwaukee area.”

In 1966, that characterized the mission of the Kopmeier Family Foundation, a private foundation created by Milwaukee’s Waldemar S. Kopmeier, founder of Wisconsin Ice & Coal and a third generation German immigrant born in 1882.

Lindsay Stevens Gardner, an adviser to the Kopmeier Family Fund, on the rooftop of Radio Milwaukee, one of the agencies her family’s fund supports.

Waldemar and his wife, Meta Uihlein Kopmeier, were active in civic and philanthropic activities. Their family's commitment to Milwaukee has spanned generations – four to be exact – and lives on through the Kopmeier Family Fund.

The fund was created in 1979 when nearly \$1 million in assets were transferred from the private foundation to the then Milwaukee Foundation, making it the ninth private foundation to do so. While the fund stays true to the wishes that its patriarch put forth a half century ago, over time each member of the family's advisory committee has introduced their own set of recommendations while following guidelines to support individual charities and keep giving in the local community.

The fund supports about 40 nonprofits annually and has included such community staples as Walnut Way Conservation Corp, Wisconsin Humane Society, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Urban Ecology Center and Radio Milwaukee. Milwaukee native Lindsay Stevens Gardner, great granddaughter of Waldemar Kopmeier, founder and executive director of Rock the Green and chair of the fund's advisory committee, explains the family's generational philanthropic commitment – which has added up to \$4.1 million over the years.



Each year the fund supports about 40 different nonprofits like the Urban Ecology Center.

Having grown up in Milwaukee, what does it feel like to be giving back through the fund?

It's an honor and a privilege to be able to carry on the family heritage and what Waldemar was able to fund. I take the role very seriously. I make visits to the nonprofits that we are considering to be sure our donation would be of benefit to the nonprofit organization.

What do you look for before you invest in a nonprofit?

We try to look at keeping things somewhat diversified to kind of touch somewhat different areas in the city and different needs. There are so many great nonprofits in the city that are doing important work. Sometimes we've earmarked things under special circumstances, but a lot of the giving for our fund is unrestricted.

What are you most proud of with your family's fund?

It's an amazing way to be able to give back and to help Milwaukee, help the community and help the people.

What are your hopes for the fund's future?

For our children to carry on the legacy and realize the importance of how they will use this as their way to give back to the community. My oldest child, Owen, is 13, and I told him, 'This is a great opportunity, and some day you are going be on the board and making these decisions to help the community.' It is gratifying to know that we will be able to pass this on to our children as situations and needs change in Milwaukee. It will be up to the board to decide what they view as important and near and dear to their hearts.



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To join us in strengthening the community,
visit **GreaterMilwaukeeFoundation.org**

