

FALL 2023

# ThriveOn

COLLABORATION UPDATE



## Construction and building transformation continues into fall

Construction at the ThriveOn King building continued through the summer. The parking structure slab is almost complete, the new elevator and mechanical shaft air and vapor barrier have been completed, and tile installation has begun in bathrooms and the café. In the basement, the masonry wall in the WE-Energies vault continues, and carpet installation has begun on the fourth floor.

A diverse group of tenants and features will bring ThriveOn King to life when completed in early 2024. The historic former Gimbels-Schuster's building on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive will be home to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's headquarters, offices for the Medical College of Wisconsin's community engagement programs, an exemplar early childhood education center operated by Malaika Early Learning Center, a community hub for Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, new headquarters for JobsWork MKE, community gathering spaces, healthy food options, public art and mixed-income housing for families and seniors.



## HEALTH EQUITY UPDATE

# Leonard Egede, MD, MS, serves as the Inaugural Milwaukee Community Chair in Health Equity Research at MCW



Leonard Egede, MD, MS

In 2021, ThriveOn Collaboration appointed Leonard Egede, MD, MS, as the Inaugural Milwaukee Community Chair in Health Equity Research at the Medical College

of Wisconsin. Since his appointment, Dr. Egede has identified research priorities and devised strategies to strengthen the infrastructure of the MCW Center for Advancing Population Science (CAPS) to better support community-engaged research and health systems, increase federal funding for projects, and expand research collaboration across MCW.

In 2022, Dr. Egede formally established the Health Equity Research Group (HERG) within CAPS to pool and leverage

resources to sustain programs over the long term to address health disparities in Milwaukee. The Health Equity Research Group is a faculty team that aims to change policies by conducting research in health disparities, population health and implementation science. The group's community engaged research areas of focus include policies that address structural racism and structural inequities in health, social determinants of health and social risk factors that impact health, and economic empowerment and alleviation of the impact of poverty on health. HERG faculty and staff concentrate most of their daily research and recruitment efforts within Milwaukee ZIP codes that have high health disparities, including ThriveOn's three proximal neighborhoods of Halyard Park, Harambee and Brewer's Hill.

*"The Center for Advancing Population Science is looking forward to the unique collaboration and engagement opportunities that being located at the new ThriveOn King space will provide."*

*-Dr. Leonard Egede.*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*As a collaboration, ThriveOn is excited to engage with the community and promote our joint vision for a Milwaukee that is equitable, healthy and thriving for all at events around Milwaukee.*



## ThriveOn Block Party

On Sept. 20, we gathered in the ThriveOn King neighborhood to celebrate during the annual ThriveOn King Block Party! It was an amazing day spent with future neighbors and colleagues and community partners. The evening consisted of delicious food by local food vendors, activities for children, lively music and perfect weather. Food vendors at the party included Confectionately Yours, Honeybee Sage Wellness & Apothecary, No Bayou, Pepperpot Jamaican Cuisine, Rise & Grind Café, and Sam's Place Jazz Café.

## SPOTLIGHT ON THRIVE ON KING TENANT PARTNERS

# JobsWork MKE takes comprehensive approach to employment

Four years ago, LaToya Crain walked into JobsWork MKE and changed her life.

At 16, Crain, a Milwaukee native, struck out on her own, determined to make it big in the world. After years of struggling to find a good paying job and falling in with the wrong crowd, Crain had reached a crossroads. She went to JobsWork MKE, which six months earlier had told her to reapply, determined to try and succeed.

“Coming here, I had that hope, but I was still in between,” Crain said. “I was still in that stubborn mind because there were certain positions I had been used to working that I didn’t want to go back to. But when I did get the job and allowed them to help...it’s the best decision that I could have made.”

JobsWork MKE is a workforce development program that helps adults overcome barriers to gainful employment. The organization is currently located at 2821 Vel R. Phillips Ave., but come 2024, it will be relocating to the ThriveOn King building as a tenant partner.

“It’s an honor,” Michael Adams, president of JobsWork MKE, said. “We haven’t even moved in, and we are partnering with Malaika, we are partnering with Versiti and we’re working on some stuff with MCW. It’s an exciting time. It’s an opportunity to be in a space that’s really going to support the community and the community can be there while we’re doing the work.”

Kathryn Dunn, senior vice president and chief strategy officer at the Foundation, said the idea to include JobsWork came from the ThriveOn Collaboration visioning sessions.

“It’s really in direct response to what we heard from our neighbors and what they wanted and what they felt others in the community needed,” Dunn said. “We kept hearing from people that we needed some support for folks navigating those barriers to employment...JobsWork, which has been around for quite a while, has a really unique approach.”

JobsWork’s mission aligns with the Foundation and ThriveOn Collaboration’s commitment to enhance equitable economic opportunity. This strategy focuses on supporting small businesses and increasing participation in the workforce.

Unlike other job programs, JobsWork does more than just connect individuals to jobs.

Upon joining JobsWork, each member participates in a two-week career readiness workshop where they practice mock interviews, as well as learn tips for being a successful employee and how



*Members of JobsWork participate in a career readiness workshop after which they develop a custom employment development plan.*

to confront trauma. Following the workshop, members are assessed and given a custom employment development plan. After completing the workshop, JobsWork connects individuals to its employer partners such as Froedtert, Encore Cleaning Systems, Quad Graphics, Marquette University and more. Once an individual finds employment, JobsWork remains a constant in their life. It helps them with financial planning, job advancement, spiritual support, barriers and more.

When the organization began about 10 years ago, Adams and Bill Krugler, JobsWork’s founding president and now board chair, realized their work wasn’t only about finding members jobs, but helping them keep them, as many of their members were impacted by decades of trauma. In response, JobsWork collaborated with Dr. Mark Fossie of WestCare Wisconsin, Tim Grove of Wellpoint Care Network and professor James “Dimitri” Topitzes of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to provide tools to members dealing with trauma so they could learn to identify the problem, self-regulate and, eventually, heal.

JobsWork is able to maintain long-term relationships with members in part due to the funding the nonprofit receives. The Foundation and its donors have been longtime supporters, providing over \$1.2 million in grants since 2015.

“It takes incremental things to build trust,” Adams said. “We’re continually building trust by answering the phone, by hearing a person and meeting them where they are. We talk about where grace and accountability intersect. Sometimes we have to tough love it, but it’s always with a big spoonful of love. That’s how we build trust, it’s no real big secret, it’s just incrementally doing what you say you’re going to do.”



## ThriveOn OFFICE HOURS

COLLABORATION

Office hours are back this fall! Join the ThriveOn Collaboration during office hours to chat with Community Engagement Fellow Zipporah (Z) Turnbull. Each office hour session is designed to share information about neighborhood programs and resources and to highlight organizations in the ThriveOn King building.

### Clinton Rose Senior Center

3045 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53212

First Thursday of each month 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m

- Thursday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. - Noon
- Thursday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - Noon

### Rise & Grind Café

2737 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Every second Monday of the month, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

- Monday, Nov. 13, 9 - 11 a.m.
- Monday, Dec. 11, 9 - 11 a.m.

### HoneyBee Sage Wellness & Apothecary Cafe

1819 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Every third Tuesday of the month, Noon – 2 p.m.

- Tuesday, Nov. 21, Noon – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 19, Noon – 2:00 p.m.



The ThriveOn Collaboration Community Engagement team invites residents and friends for a complimentary tea and coffee, and good conversation about all things ThriveOn.

### African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin

1920 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53212

- Friday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m. – Noon
- Friday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m. – Noon

## CONNECT WITH US

The ThriveOn Community Engagement Team would love to hear from you. We continue to engage the community through various one-on-one chats with residents, stakeholders and community leaders from the Brewers Hill, Halyard Park and Harambee communities. Please reach out to one of our Community Engagement Team members to share your thoughts about the collaboration, what types of things you think would be beneficial in your community, to find out how to get involved, or to be added to our mailing list.



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### FIND THE THRIVE ON COLLABORATION ON OUR SOCIALS

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