

EMCC Summer Camps shine despite challenges & restrictions

By Eric Peters, Assistant Youth Program Manager

Here at the EMCC we pride ourselves on our ability to give our campers plenty of structured activities during the summer, however Covid-19 has made such endeavors much harder due to Covid restrictions. With some dedicated staff and quick thinking the EMCC crew got to work and were able to brainstorm some solutions to still have fun while learning during such an awkward time.

Extensive cleaning and safety measures were taken to make sure that children could attend in person and enjoy their time at the center. The campers were organized into color-coded pods that had 8 children and 2 counselors. It took some practice and constant reminders but many took to the "new normal" as a change that required more safety precautions and daily disinfecting habits. While staff and campers alike miss the close contact of friends



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it was important to understand the dangers Covid-19 brings. Fortunately for our campers Little Amerricka amusement happened to still be operational, so we went on our big final trip. Preteen and teen campers were able to enjoy tablets that our fellow staff member Nate Savado was able to provide through the First Tee Program. They were able to play their favorite

games without having to be cramped next to each other and it made situations more manageable. Also provided were board games, puzzles, and craft materials that worked as a good switch from the screen time. Many children enjoyed snack time and we received many joyful complements like "I love

snack time! Can I help pick out the treat?" from kids like James Moore and many others attending. Teen camp has managed to get more field trip options thanks to Covid restrictions being loosened up. We were able to take trips to Dream Lanes, Skyzone, and Goodman Pool, which were all great thanks to getting back out again. This year has probably been the strangest for summer day camp in EMCC history. The folks here at the EMCC worked hard to keep things afloat in this bizarre time and we hope to get back to normal next summer.

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YOUTH News



Teen Summer Day Camp 2020

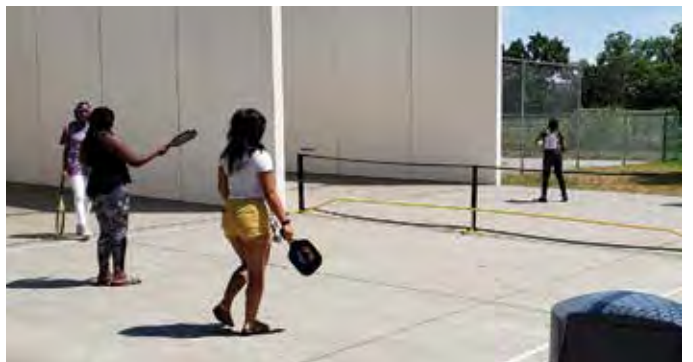
By Pau Xiong

Summer Day Camp is an event I look forward to every year, but this year it was handled very differently. Being a youth camp counselor hosting a camp during a pandemic is an experience I have never had before. It was much different than in years past due to Covid.

We split campers into groups for safety purposes to contain any further exposure. Groups ranged from certain ages, for example: campers from 8-10 years old would stay in a group together of a total of 6-8 kids and an adult staff to supervise.

face masks, hand washing, sanitizing hands frequently, and having rooms assigned to specific groups. With these safety rules in place, this can help our community stay safe. Staff are also tested for COVID-19 before each camp takes place.

Our common day-to-day started with breakfast and education such as: news currents, basic math, problem solving, manners, anger management and learning how to express yourself properly. We also kept our campers thinking outside the box by expressing their artistic side by painting flowerpots, decorating rocks, building sculptures with pottery and drawing.



Field trips were very limited but were not completely cancelled. During a global pandemic, our summer day camp was very fortunate to have field trips to SkyZone, Goodman Pool, Dream Lanes Bowling, Little America, and Henry Vilas Zoo. Although this experience was some-

thing I never thought would happen in my lifetime, I am very thankful I had this experience. I met campers who are bright, kind and very independent. It was an amazing experience to see the EMCC oversee problems and conflicts to end positively.



Staff began the summer training to protect both the community and children. A few of our safety guidelines were to understand how to manage social distancing throughout camp, minimizing kids in groups, enforcing



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THE EMCC 24TH ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON GOES VIRTUAL!

Normally in November, the EMCC community gathers together to enjoy an afternoon of bowling at Dream Lanes to support the Academic Improvement through Minority Mentors Program (AIMM). This year EMCC hosted its 24th Annual bowl-a-thon, but it was a very different format. Twelve youth bowlers (two per lane in every other lane) and some special guest bowlers went to Dream Lanes on November 7th. They enjoyed a few games and captured photos and video segments for the bowl-a-thon video to be shared with the community. The bowling was well-liked by the kids, but we all missed our regular bowlers and the community atmosphere at the bowl-a-thon. Community businesses and individuals sponsored the event, which raised over \$42,000! ■



Check out the EMCC 2020 Promotional Video and Virtual Bowl-a-thon highlights at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=GI14qhqUQGw



 Community businesses & individuals sponsored the event, which raised over **\$42,000!**



Visit the EMCC website at www.eastmadisoncc.org and Facebook page for more photos.



Thank You!



We are on Facebook! On Facebook, we have our up-to-date schedule of events. You will also be able to see pictures of EMCC events. Give us a "Like", so you stay up-to-date with what is happening in the community.

Kids' Garden Club

by Sarah Jacobsen



Every year, Garden Club is filled with passionate, excited kids ready to care for our garden and harvest the beautiful produce. While Covid has brought many changes and challenges, there is just as much enthusiasm as ever. To maintain physical distance, I make the recipe and hand the samples out to kids. We've tried garlic scape pesto, homemade ranch, tortilla pizzas, pickles, and berry cobbler so far this summer. While we were picking cherries for the berry

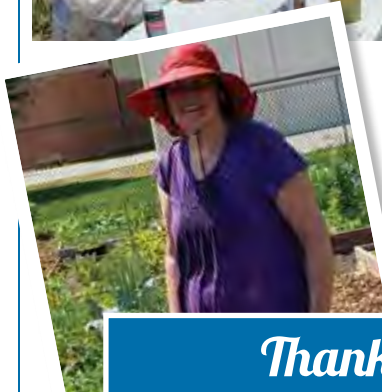
cobbler, Preston picked two cherries attached at the stem and said "This is so cool! This is exactly what it looks like in Pac-Man." The EMCC Kids' Garden sparks enthusiasm about the outdoors and about their community space. Thank you Troy Gardens Kids Gardening Program for the recipes and extra ingredients.

Gardening is an act of hope and of resilience. Kids rush outside to see if their bean and basil seeds sprouted and carefully weed around



the tomatoes and beets. This summer, the majority of our garden activities are focused on art. It can be a useful and powerful activity that strengthens our sense of community, encourages us to share feelings, helps us feel calm, and clarifies our core values. We've made

puffy sidewalk chalk of what keeps us hopeful and positive, spray bottle art of what we're grateful for, and painted the picnic tables with designs from the kids. As we reflect on this uncharted summer, I hope our memories of Garden Club provide some bright spots. ■



Thank You!
Kids' Garden Volunteers!



STAFF PROFILE



SARAH JACOBSEN: Youth Garden & Nutrition Coordinator

It's great to be back at EMCC and in the magic atmosphere of the garden. I worked as the Kids' Garden and Nutrition Coordinator 2015-2018 and graduated in winter of 2018 with a degree in Chemistry from UW-Madison. After graduating, I moved to my hometown and worked as a Behavioral Treatment Tech at the Treffert Center. I learned so much helping young kids with autism learn social skills. In the beginning of 2020, I moved to Jackson, Wyoming for an AmeriCorps service at Teton Science Schools as an Outdoor Fields Educator. It was an absolute blast taking groups of kids into Grand Teton National Park and teaching them about geology, glaciers, plant and animal adaptation, and leading them through team building activities. Due to Covid, the AmeriCorps service ended early and my summer position was cancelled so I moved back to Wisconsin. I'm so happy to be back in Madison and to see all the amazing kids at EMCC! ■

Woody Carey Scholarship Recipients

The Woody Carey Community Scholarship Program was started in the fall of 2013 after the passing of long-term board member Dr. Ellwood “Woody” Carey. Woody served as a volunteer on the EMCC Board of Directors for over 25 years and held various Board positions over his tenure. In addition, Woody was one of the original members of the Center’s fundraising group, the EMCC Resource Development Team. He was asked to become a member of the team due to his positive attitude and extensive contacts in the community. ■



The “Scholarship Program” is a meaningful and long lasting tribute to Woody’s legacy, loving spirit, and positive values, especially in the area of equal opportunities. This program is especially meaningful because when Woody went to college the scholarships he obtained were essential to him being able to afford to attend. Likewise, the EMCC has awarded five exemplary students with scholarships as a result of this year’s awards. Over 30 students have been awarded scholarships since 2013.



**Alexandria
“Ally” Becker**

College: Madison College
(Continuing Student)

Major: ADN Registered Nurse

Quote: *Having someone believe in me enough to award me with scholarships has helped me believe in myself as well. I didn’t have a lot of that growing up. I feel it helps me to hold myself to a higher standard and work harder. Being awarded a scholarship is a heart-warming act that I hope to pay forward by creating my own scholarship to help students obtain their dreams.* ■



Pau Xiong

High School:
East High School

College: UW-Madison

Major: Computer Science

Quote: *I started working on my own at EMCC in April 2016. I’ve loved it then and I still love it now. This community helped me grow, learn and become friends with people who would change my life. I believe that it even pushed my efforts in school, helped me persevere through many obstacles and challenges, and grow not only as student but as a human being.* ■



Victoria Greer

High School:
La Follette High School/
Madison College

College: Howard

Major: Strategic, Legal and Management Communication

Quote: *The East Madison Community Center has given so much to me by pushing me to help others in my community, and I hope to embody this giving spirit on my new journey.* ■



Olivia Dawson

College: Madison College
(Continuing Student)

Major: Liberal Arts Transfer – Registered Nursing

Quote: *As an African American woman in the healthcare field, I want to help specifically improve the healthcare given to minority populations. My goal is to specialize in Women’s health and help serve underrepresented communities.* ■



**Anastasia
Vongkoth**

High School:
East High School

College: UW-Stevens Point

Major: Social Work

Quote: *I want to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in social work and hopefully land a stable job as a social worker at either a school or have my own office as one handling family issues.* ■

Congratulations! 5

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER & PARTNERSHIPS



Madison East Monona Rotary Club

Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves. This is the Vision statement of Rotary International. As one of more than 35 thousand clubs with more than 1.2 million members worldwide, the Madison East Monona Rotary Club, chartered in 1957, takes this vision seriously and though we are small in numbers, we try to meet these challenges in ways that we can.

One of these ways is through our partnership with the East Madison Community Center. Over the years our paths have crossed often whether it was through contributions to support fund raising, sending participating students to the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Camp, or providing grants to accomplish projects that needed to be done. The most lasting connection however, has been our participation with the Center in their monthly Food Pantry. Starting about seven years ago, members of the Club have been involved in either

set up or tear down of the pantry. Those of us involved early on will remember pushing food carts over ice and snow to get that job done. That has evolved and though the job may now be physically easier, it is still something we look forward to. With the changes brought on by Covid, we were initially not involved but have recently found a way to contribute by packing some boxes. We look forward to the time when life will be normal again and we can do what we set out to do.

Our Rotary Club is always looking for more individuals in the community who can relate to the Rotary Vision, individuals who want to make the community and the world a better place. To learn more about Rotary visit the Rotary International website. During Covid, we are not currently meeting in person, but feel free to visit our Facebook page to learn more about us. If you have any questions feel free to call 837-2116 for more information. ■

Old National Bank

Old National Bank (ONB) opened a new bank branch at 4708 East Towne Boulevard. As part of the grand opening celebration, a \$500 donation was made to the East Madison Community Center in honor of the new location. Branch employees volunteer at the EMCC Food Pantry. ■



Hawthorne Elementary School Partnership

by Ericka Brown, Community Schools Resource Coordinator and EMCC Board Member

With the support and partnership with EMCC and Second Harvest food bank, Hawthorne Elementary Community School was able to provide perishables, non-perishables, produce and meat products to over 50 families in the month of May. We were able to partner with Ridge View Heights Apartment Complex and Christ the Solid Rock Church along with Hawthorne Community School as site locations that provided food items with great success. Thanks Team! ■



Big Thanks!

EMCC thanks the Rotary for their ongoing support of the food pantry and volunteering during the pandemic.



EMCC FOOD PANTRY

Tuesdays from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Walk-Up/Drive-Up

Project HOPES brings stability during Covid

EMCC's Project HOPES (Holistic Organization of Partners for Economic Stability) provides programs with the goal of increasing economic stability and decreasing poverty in families with young children. With support of the United Way of Dane County and other collaborative partners, EMCC is providing many programs to assist families during Covid.

The 2Gen or multi-generational approach enables families to participate in activities for all ages. For example, parents and children worked in the community garden together; children participated in the youth summer camp while parents volunteered as garden

leaders. This fall, children are in the full-day education program while parents can gain work skills through volunteer programs and community activities such as increasing Census participation in the neighborhood. Families also received Safe & Health Home kits from Spectrum through the EMCC food pantry.

Most recently, EMCC welcomed the Community to Canvas program which provides artistic opportunities for people faced with housing insecurity. The art will be sold through e-commerce and the participants will receive money and financial education tools.



The EMCC Digital Access Program is a WiFi hotspot and

device lending program for the CDA Truax and Webb-Rethke housing complexes. This program is a collaborative effort by CDA, EMCC and the Public Service Commission. Residents of all ages will have increased access to high-speed internet and internet literacy training.

The 2020 EMCC Woody Carey Scholarships were

awarded to five EMCC community members who are dedicated to their educational goals and are role models for the younger generations of youth at the center.

A few of the recent Project HOPES program partners include United Way, First Tee, MMSD, the Madison Community Foundation, Integrating Communities, Creating Connections (IC3), CDA, Spectrum, CAC, Second Harvest, JAFF, Today Not Tomorrow (TNT), and Fit Youth Initiative. ■

Volunteer Garden Leaders



Ronald Golden volunteered to be a Garden Leader this year and has put in countless hours weeding and woodchipping the children's garden and walkways. He has also been a great help increasing communication with gardeners during the pandemic.

Ronald mentioned that he finds gardening to be a good use of his time and is also therapeutic.



Marbeli Bruno My Name is Marbeli, I'm a volunteer at the EMCC. In the garden, I have planted all the fruits and vegetables that I like and it has given me the opportunity to meet everyone at the garden. It is nice to see all the things they

are planting. My experience in the garden has been amazing; it reminds me of back home.

I'm happy to volunteer as a garden leader too.

New Solar Array in Middleton Now Serving MGE Customers

Madison Gas & Electric (MGE) customers who subscribe to our community solar program, Shared Solar, are now being served by a new 5-megawatt array at Middleton Municipal Airport. Shared Solar is an option for eligible MGE electric customers who want solar energy to help power their business or their apartment, condo, or single-family home.

The solar array, which came online in early August, will generate enough clean energy to power more than 1,000 households through the Shared Solar program. Participants pay a one-time, up-front fee to reserve a portion of the electricity produced and a stable price per kilowatt-hour for 25 years. The remaining portion of the array serves the City of Middleton and the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District under two separate Renewable Energy Rider agreements with MGE.

Growing our use of renewable energy is one of the ways we're working to achieve net-zero carbon electricity by 2050. Customer participation in Shared Solar helps us grow clean energy in our community. ■

Visit mge.com/shared-solar to sign up for the Shared Solar program or to learn more.

East Madison Community Center

8 Straubel Court
Madison, WI 53704

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E M C C C E N T E R P O I N T S

EMCC 2020 VOLUNTEERS

Youth Volunteers

Ashley Bruno, Gabby Bruno, Luis Bruno, Dominic Dean, Elaf Ibrahim, Elyas Ibrahim, Antuan Haskins, Lyonna Jones, Lemya Jones, Mack Rimson, Te Te Thompson

Food/Clothing/Household Items Distribution

Ally Becker, Eddie Bibbs, John Boyton, Kenny Brumfield, Marbeli Bruno, Olivia Dawson, Martha Galston, Josseline Gomez, Veronica Gomez, Pat Haak, Khandra Henderson, Rosie Haskins, P. Kirkpatrick, Hattie Lomax, Jeffrey Lomax, Regina Oliver, Lisa Patterson, Alicia Rowe, Mylas Sparks, LC Williams, Jared Oronyi, Stefano Rizzardo, John Vinje, East Madison/Monona Rotary, Madison College, I3C, Old National Bank

Resource Development

Larry Hamlin, Bunny Lenburg

Program Volunteers

Martha Galston, Peggy Merrck-Bakken, American Family Insurance, Ascendium Education Group, East Side Optimists, Madison College Service Learning Academy, UW Badger Volunteers

Social Media/Graphic Design

Allie Christensen, Sandy Wagener

Board Members

Erika Brown, Marbeli Bruno, D'livia Dumas-Henriquez, Larry Hamlin, Neri Haried, Rosie Haskins, Tracy Lomax, Mylas Sparks, Dr. Melina Lozano, Meghan O'Dell, Jamal Palmer, Tauri Robinson, Alex Shade, Kris Rasmussen, Je'Dauri Robinson, Renee Robinson, Sandy Xiong



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Janitor: Nate Savado

Youth Workers:
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Lemya Jones Nate Savado
Leah Kutschke Pau Xiong

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