

A new season begins in the Community Garden



By Sarah Jorgensen,
Kids' Garden and
Nutrition Coordinator

On April 24th, novice and veteran community gardeners gathered on a beautiful sunny Saturday morning to get the garden in working order. We spent a couple hours weeding and wood chipping the aisles. It was wonderful catching up with returning gardeners and meeting new gardeners.



We talked about what we were excited to grow, quarantine hobbies, and where life has taken us in the past year. Two mini gardeners, Georgey and Ethan, worked hard pulling dandelions and made some garden art with the dandelion flowers. John Barkei is installing organizational hardware in the garden shed so if you see him around, tell him thanks! Each month the gardeners gather for a group workday to volunteer in the children's garden and community spaces. ■

*Thanks to everyone who's helped in the garden so far!
Best of luck gardening!*



Save ^{the} Date



November 6, 2021
25th Annual EMCC
Bowl-a-Thon!

Visit EMCC's website at www.eastmadisoncc.org

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EMCC Education Camp continues to support and develop the "Whole Child"

By John Harmelink, Youth Program Manager and Pau Xiong, Youth Worker

School closures have been used as a common tool for the past 18 months to battle COVID-19. The pandemic is transforming society in profound ways, often widening the achievement gap of students that live in low-income neighborhoods.

The East Madison Community Center made the decision to offer in-person education at the center in order to provide devices and internet access which is critical for online working. The EMCC also needed to reach out to families that did not feel comfortable sending their children to the center.

For the students going to school it's not just about reading, writing and math; it's also about supporting children's mental health during COVID-19 and developing the social, and, emotional skills that are critical to succeeding in life. With that being said the Center has incorporated programs during non-class hours that would assist youth in their social emotional skills that include creativity, tolerance, persistence, empathy, resilience, self-control, and time management. These skills added with their academic skills are essentially in development of the "Whole Child". As the community gets back to in person school once again the EMCC will continue to serve children



that have chosen to remain in virtual learning. It has been a great learning experience for both students, staff and the community. The EMCC partnered with First Tee of Southeast Wisconsin to provide devices and tutors that were essential for the success of the program. The EMCC was able to offer this program because of the



commitment of staff, students, area residents, and community organization all working as one in order to provide a high quality program to assure the youth of EMCC have the proper tools and assistance to be successful in life. ■



GLIMB ABOARD!

By Pau Xiong, Youth Worker

The EMCC took the children who participated in the education camp on a pontoon boat tour around Lake Monona. We visited the Yahara river, saw a few sand beaches like B.B. Clarke and Olbrich beach. As we followed the current of the lake, we witnessed the best view of the Monona Terrace and the Capital building. We waved to people biking and fishing along the capital city bike trail and we even saw baby geese learning how to dive. Volunteers, staff and children took turns counting fish and some kids took a nice sunny nap. **Thanks MSCR for a great kick off to summer.** ■



YOUTH PROFILE



Ashley Bruno

Age: 13

School: 8th Grade, Isthmus Montessori Academy

Favorite School Subject: Reading and Science

Years attending EMCC: 5

Favorite EMCC Program: Reading and Learning Center

Hobbies: Reading, watching movies

Favorite Food: Pizza

Adult Role Model: Martin Luther King Jr.

When I'm older I would like to be: Veterinarian

Words to live by: Never give up.

KIDS' GARDEN: Let's get diggin!



YOUTH PROFILE



Dominic Dean

Age: 9

School: 3rd Grade, Hawthorne Elementary

Favorite School Subject: Science

Years attending EMCC: 4

Favorite EMCC Program: Alternatives To Violence

Hobbies: Ride my bike, Go to the park, Fishing, Soccer, Basketball

Favorite Food: Pancakes

Adult Role Model: My Mom

When I'm older I would like to be: A Police Officer or Firefighter

Words to live by: Treat everyone with respect.

By Sarah Jacobsen, Kids' Garden and Nutrition Coordinator

It's warming up and we are venturing out into the brisk Wisconsin spring to revive our garden. The past couple weeks, we've planted spinach, carrots, radishes and beets. As the kids dig trenches for the seeds, I tell them to name the worms that help our garden grow. So far we've been graced with worms named Light soul, Dark soul, Maple, Oak, and Bob. From a kids' point of view, dandelions are beautiful yellow flowers. Jocelynn and Marlie were picking dandelions bouquets to take home and picked a couple to tuck behind our ears. Antuan fashioned a dandelion into a ring and showed off his garden wear saying "I'm flexing". Every day I get to spend with the kids in the garden shows me how creative, kind, joyous, and resilient they are. ■



THANK YOU EMCC KIDS FOR BEING YOUR WONDERFUL AND TRUE SELVES!

STAFF PROFILE



SARAH JACOBSEN: Kids' Garden & Nutrition Coordinator

It's been a joy to rejoin the EMCC family the past year. Being the Kids' Garden and Nutrition Coordinator has made this pandemic more bearable with kind, masked faces to talk to and kids to teach and laugh with. This July, I'll be moving to Denver as a part of the Launch Fellowship. Over the next two years, I'll work in the Denver Public Schools and study for my Masters in Teaching at the Relay Graduate School. Although I'm excited to move to a new city and pursue teaching full-time, EMCC will always hold a special spot in my heart. Working at EMCC while I was in college helped me realize that my passion lies in education. I'm looking forward to becoming a science teacher, and I will always be grateful for the beautiful and creative young minds that helped me guide me to this career path. ■

Thank you Sarah!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



ASCENDIUM VOLUNTEERS CHIP IN AT EMCC ON EARTH DAY

On Earth Day, EMCC and Truax Neighborhood received some TLC. A collaborative effort between volunteers from Ascendium Education Group, staff from EMCC and Truax Community Development Authority pulled weeds and mulched various areas around the neighborhood and in the children's garden. The areas around the neighborhood signs have never looked better! Be sure to check them out if you pass through the neighborhood. This day also took place during national Volunteer Week and EMCC was happy to welcome back Ascendium employees. ■

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP



The Truax Neighborhood Association and EMCC joined together on a Saturday to pick up trash in the neighborhood. Children from the youth program picked up litter around the center and the Truax complex. To top it off, they also joined the garden volunteers to spread mulch in the children's garden. The kids had fun while learning about volunteering and contributing to the community. ■

VACCINATION CLINIC

Together with Madison Public Health, EMCC was able to host neighborhood-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics in April and May. Area residents were offered Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines. For many, this opportunity provided access to medical appointments which may not have been possible due to transportation and other limiting factors. Special Thanks goes out to Dr. Docter and his team for providing this much needed service to the EMCC community. ■



FINANCIAL LITERACY AT EMCC

EMCC and the Eastside CDA (Community Development Authority) co-hosted a Financial Fitness Fair at EMCC on May 15th. Participants were provided resources about money-saving strategies and budgeting. EMCC is planning more in-depth workshops in the future. Thanks goes out to Associated Bank, Summit Credit Union and Old National Bank for resources and gifts for the event. This program is part of EMCC's Project HOPES. ■



ESSENTIALS GIVEBACK

Under the direction of Jazzman Brown, the Feeding the Youth Program hosted its second Essentials Giveback at EMCC. Fifty-five families received baby supplies, household items and meals-to-go made possible by the generosity of several community groups. ■



MADISON COLLEGE STUDENT PROJECT & DONATION

Hygiene is important, and sometimes that fact is overlooked. With this in mind, students in the spring 2021 Project Management Fundamentals course, taught by Carrie Anderson at MATC, put together a donation drive to collect basic household cleaners and hygiene products. Students Ronald Golden (Ronald is also a volunteer in the Community Garden), Tarrick Lindner, and Taylor Wheeler-Bonte set out to collect items from friends, family, and everyday ordinary people to meet this goal. Thanks to the help and support from the community center, they were able to successfully complete their project, and after learning about what it means to manage a project, these students hope to continue to help when possible. ■



Meet the dedicated EMCC Intern Team



Madeline Carroll

I'm Maddy, an intern at EMCC through the UW-Madison School of Social Work. It has been an honor to get to know the kids and staff at EMCC while working in the education program. The teachers and staff involved with the education program have shown tremendous creativity, resilience, and dedication to support youth in the program. I am so grateful for my experience here as it has given me insight into the kind of work I want to do in the future, hopefully school social work! I will take away many great memories from my time at EMCC, but my favorite moments are when a student learns a new concept or skill and feels more confident in their abilities! ■



Miranda O'Rourke

I have really enjoyed my time as an intern at EMCC. Before interning at the center, I didn't have a lot of experience with school-aged kids, and I was a bit nervous to start. After being here for about three months, I can honestly say that I love it! I think that my most memorable moment would be doing a stress-relief activity with the kids who come to the center. They seemed to really enjoy it! Otherwise I am excited to be here and am looking forward to the summer camp coming up! ■

**EMCC Interns
ROCK!**



Sarah Rogalla

My name is Sarah, and I am currently a student in UW-Madison's Master of Social Work program. Interning at the EMCC is always the highlight of my week, and it is incredible witnessing all the kids grow. Seeing the kids just be kids during this crazy and difficult time is the best part about coming to the EMCC. Usually, I am helping the kids with their online classes, but I always make sure they have time for fun. My favorite moment at the EMCC was when we turned on music and all the kids started dancing! They were all doing the same dances and having a blast. ■



Lilly Soderberg

Working at EMCC this year has been such a rewarding experience! The kids can make the darkest days seem so bright. My favorite moment at the center cannot be limited to just one. I have been privileged enough to make lasting connections with many of the kids. I especially liked playing basketball in the gym and working one-on-one with the kids on their school work. How exciting it is to conquer a difficult homework problem together! This year has been very challenging for everyone, but we have come out on the other side with a new sense of unity. ■

The kids can make the darkest days seem so bright. My favorite moment at the center cannot be limited to just one. I have been privileged enough to make lasting connections with many of the kids.

– Lilly Soderberg

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Je'Dauri Robinson

I have been a participant in the EMCC since I was a small child. My whole family has grown up in this center, two generations to be exact. I decided once I was an adult to join the board and serve as a board member; I made this decision because I wanted to give back to the place that helped support and guide me and my family all these years. I also decided to serve because I am also a resident in the Truax neighborhood and I feel that my feelings matter when it comes to the heart of my community. ■



American Family Insurance is pleased to help underwrite East Madison Community Center's newsletter.

**THANK YOU
to American Family for printing Centerpoints!**

Holiday Turkey Food Baskets – a 30 year tradition at EMCC

By Helen Madsen,
Longtime friend and supporter of EMCC

The popular Turkey Food Basket Program during the Christmas Season was started in the 1980's by Parkside Presbyterian Church on Lien Road near EastTowne in the 1980's. Parkside had previously committed to its national church to develop mission work with EMCC on the Center's needs. Tom Moen at that time identified healthy food as a priority need for area residents being served by EMCC. To help meet this need, Parkside started serving Sunday evening meals twice a month at the Center. These meals were in partnership with 5 other Madison area churches: Bethel Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran, Lake Edge United Church of Christ and Hope Lutheran.



Parkside Presbyterian Church, with the agreement of 5 other churches, started the Holiday Turkey Food Basket to provide a complete Christmas meal for 125 Truax and eastside families served by the Center.

As other ways were found to help meet EMCC client food needs, Parkside, with the agreement of the other 5 churches, started the Holiday Turkey Food Basket to provide a complete



Christmas meal for 125 Truax and eastside families served by the Center. This program has continued annually for over 30 years with participation of the same churches. When the Word of Life ACM Church began services at EMCC, it joined as a participant providing food for the turkey baskets. Each basket includes a fresh turkey or ham, canned green beans or peas, a large can of yams, stuffing, candy canes and fresh fruit. Residents, who have signed up to receive a basket, come to the Center a few days before Christmas and EMCC staff helps them pack up their food. ■



Everything Bagel Cucumber Bites

It doesn't get any easier than these delicious keto cucumber appetizers!
Fresh cucumber slices with cream cheese and everything bagel seasoning.
The perfect low carb snack for hot summer days.



Prep Time: 25 minutes • Total Time: 25 minutes
Servings: 8 servings • Calories: 93 kcal



Ingredients

Everything Bagel Seasoning:

- 1 tsp poppy seeds
- 1 tsp sesame seeds
- 1/2 tsp dried minced garlic
- 1/2 tsp dried minced onion
- 1/4 tsp crushed caraway seeds
- 1/4 tsp coarse salt

Cucumber Bites:

- 1 medium cucumber
- 4 ounces cream cheese softened
- 2 tbsp butter softened
- 2 tbsp Greek yogurt or sour cream room temperature
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp salt

Instructions

Everything Bagel Seasoning:

1. In a small bowl, whisk all the ingredients together. Set aside.

Cucumber Bites:

1. Use a sharp knife to peel alternating strips of skin from the cucumber. Slice the cucumber crosswise into 1/4 inch thick slices and place on a platter.
2. In a medium bowl, beat the cream cheese, butter, yogurt, garlic powder, and salt until well combined and smooth.
3. Attach a star shaped tip to a piping bag and fill the bag with the cream cheese mixture. Pipe decoratively on top of the cucumber slices.
4. Sprinkle each slice with everything bagel seasoning and serve.

Recipe Notes: You can make the bites ahead of time but the cucumber starts to get watery with the salt so sprinkle with the everything bagel seasoning just before serving.

Kids LOVE Cucumber Bites...Yumm!



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



PARTNER SHOUT OUTS

Ascendium Education Group and Truax CDA

Earth Day Gardening and Children's Garden preparation

Truax Neighborhood Association

Earth Day Clean-up

Emma Maas, Aiden Niermeyer and Sarah Badger

Lunch for youth program and essential items for food pantry

East Madison/Monona Rotary

Packing food boxes for the food pantry

UW and UWM interns

Youth Programs, food pantry

Donald Hayes

Youth Program

Sarah Jorgensen

Garden, Nutrition Program

United Way

Volunteer Your Time site to recruit volunteers

Thomas Wilkowske

EMCC Website volunteer

Community Development Division – City of Madison

Special funding for education program



- **Madison Gas & Electric**
Rent assistance ads
- **Voter Education Group**
Reminders for voting days and registration
- **Poll Workers**
Assisting voters at the EMCC polling site
- **Jazzman Brown: Feeding the Youth Program**
Household items, baby items and food distribution at EMCC
- **Perez Kirkpatrick**
Tilling for fellow community gardeners
- **UW-Extension**
Seeds for the community garden
- **Zach Robinson**
Garden volunteer
- **Oakhill Correctional Institution**
Seedlings for the Children's Garden
- **Dr. Tim Docter and Madison Public Health**
Vaccine clinic at EMCC
- **Ronald Golden, Tarrick Lindner, and Taylor Wheeler-Bonte: Madison College**
Collected household products for the food pantry
- **Associated Bank, Summit Credit Union and Old National Bank**
Resources for Financial Fitness Fair
- **Stateline Distillery, Doundrins Distilling and Hydrite Chemical Company**
Hand sanitizer



Thank You!

2020 Distinguished Service Award – Martha Galston

Congratulations to our own special volunteer, Martha Galston, who recently received the 2020 Distinguished Service Award from United Way. She is being honored for her outstanding community volunteer service.

Martha has been volunteering at EMCC for six years in many capacities. She currently leads the food pantry volunteers and helps in the center office. Martha says she enjoys volunteering at EMCC knowing she helps others feel better. ■



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EMCC 2021 VOLUNTEERS

Youth Volunteers

Ashley Bruno, Dominic Dean, Elaf Ibrahim, Avery Francis, Antuan Graves-Haskings, Nate Fitzpatrick, Basel Ibrahim, Rawan Ibrahim, Antuan Haskins, Eric Xiong

Food/Clothing/Household Items Distribution

Ally Becker, Holden Brandon, John Boyton, Marbeli Bruno, Martha Galston, Rosie Haskins, Perez Kirkpatrick, Cortney Kramer, Talita Maciel, Liam McGuire, Gwendolyn Pointer, LC Williams, Downtown and East Madison/Monona Rotary Clubs, Madison College, Old National Bank

Program Volunteers

Martha Galston, Barry Kita, Peggy Merrick-Bakken, Zach Robinson, Ascendium Education Group, Exact Sciences, Madison College Service Learning Academy, Community2Canvas

Social Media/Graphic Design

Allie Christensen, Sandy Wagener, Thomas Wilkowske

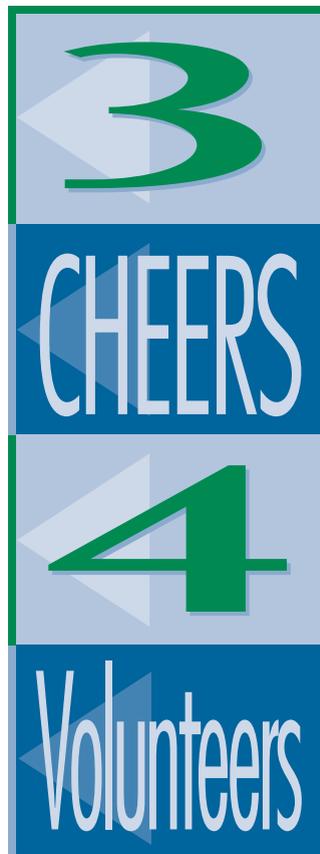
Board Members

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

Resource Development

Larry Hamlin, Bunny Lenburg

thanks!



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Executive Director: Tom Moen

Assistant Director: Regina McConnell

Youth Prgm. Mngr.: John Harmelink

Assistant Youth Prgm. Mngr.: Erics Peters

Admin. Assistant: Typhanny Greene

Accountant: Bonnie Krottiger

Office Assistant: Martha Galston

Janitor: Nate Savado

Youth Workers:
Donald Hayes Mack Rimson
Lemya Jones Nate Savado
Pau Xiong

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