



NEIGHBORHOODS USA NEWSLETTER AWARD
FIRST PLACE WINNER!

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 2 • 2023

End-of-School Year Community BBQ

By Eric Peters,
Assistant Youth Program
Manager

It was the last day of school at East Madison Community Center, and the students were excited for the BBQ party that was planned for them. The event was scheduled for June 8, 2023, and it was an excellent way to celebrate a great school year. The community center was decorated with balloons and streamers, and the smell of grilled burgers and hot dogs. The students were able to enjoy balloon animals, face painting by professionals and got to enjoy the bounce house.



As the day went on, more and more families arrived, and the party became livelier. The DJ played popular songs, and the kids danced and sang along. The event was well coordinated as guests were able to partake in food, song and dance.

It was a bittersweet moment when the party itself had to end, but everyone was grateful for the memories they had made at the EMCC BBQ party. ■

The highlight of the party was the fun everyone had as there was plenty to entertain every individual who came to the EMCC's end of school 2023 bash.

Special Thanks to:

Alex Diggs & Marbeli Bruno
cooked and served the food/drink

Ascendium Education Group
set-up tables, tents and chairs

Elijah Smith & James Xiong
clean-up, taking down tables,
tents and chairs

Second Harvest Snack Program
Watermelon

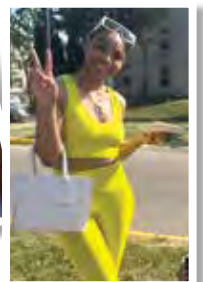
Operation Fresh Start
Information/Resources

DJ Express - music

Antsy Pants Paints - Face Painting

Twist & Shout Balloons - Balloon Twisting

Kangaroo Hop - Bounce House



Visit EMCC's website at www.eastmadisoncc.org

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Back Sarah**

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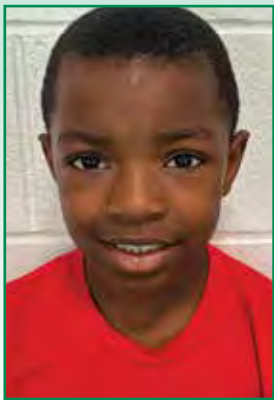
**EMCC Hopes
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YOUTH News

YOUTH PROFILE



Kai

Age: 8

School: 3rd Grade,
Lowell Elementary School

Favorite School Subject:
Gym

Years attending EMCC:
2 Years

Favorite EMCC Program:
Math

Hobbies: Basketball,
Football and Baseball

Favorite Food:
Tacos

Favorite Color: Blue

Adult Role Model:
Dad

When I'm older I would like to be: An NBA player

EMCC 2023 Summer Camp

Eight Weeks Of Education, Social Skills and Wellness



By John Harmelink,
Youth Program Manager
& Camp Director

This was East Madison Community Center's 50th year of Summer Day Camp for over 40 youth ages 7-11 from Truax, Web Rethke, east side of Madison and neighboring communities like Sun Prairie, Fitchburg, and one student even came from Oakland California. Summer Camp has had a positive impact on youth by furthering their academic skills along with learning valuable

social skills to assist them in school and stressful situations. Youth also participate in wellness at least two hours a day to improve fitness levels and increase positive body image. Summer Day Camp runs from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm 5 days a week. This year's camp staff has over 60 years of camp experience working with youth. The staff consists of teachers, social workers, UW educational students, neighborhood residents and teen staff. Teens have to complete our job training program and have maintained over a 3.0 grade point average throughout the year. This year we had 8 youth counselors working at the camp.



The Education classes included math, language arts, science, multicultural activities, geography, social studies, reading, and nutrition education. The social skills section consists of manners, alternatives to violence, sportsmanship, self-esteem improvement, volunteering, growth mindsets and conflict resolution skills. The wellness activities consist of inside activities in the gym and classes such as walking, swimming, golf lessons, gardening and many others.

The youth also participated in field trips to Goodman pool, trampoline parks, bowling, pontoon boat rides, amusement parks, baseball games, festivals and museums. ■



facebook



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.



Art Fair on the Square!



Henry Vilas Zoo!



Academic & Social Skills!



Cake Eating Contest!

YOUTH PROFILE



Darci

Age: 8

School: 3rd Grade, Olsen Elementary School

Favorite School Subject: Gym

Years attending EMCC: 1 Year- Just moved here!

Favorite EMCC Program: Art

Hobbies: Singing

Favorite Food: Bananas

Favorite Color: Pink

Adult Role Model: My Mom

When I'm older I would like to be: A teacher

YOUTH PROFILE



Xiomara

Age: 10

School: 5th Grade, Hawthorne Elementary School

Favorite School Subject: Math or Science

Years attending EMCC: 3 Years

Favorite EMCC Program: Geography

Hobbies: Reading and Arts & Crafts

Favorite Food: Tamales

Favorite Color: Purple

Adult Role Model: Mom

When I'm older I would like to be: Something great!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



ASCENDIUM EDUCATION GROUP

Ascendum Education Group has been a supporter of East Madison Community Center education programs for several years and has had numerous employee groups volunteer at EMCC. Most recently, one group assisted teens with the process of applying for jobs and a second group worked in the community garden and organizing clothing and household items for the pantry. ■



www.ascendiumeducation.org



TRUSTAGE COMMUNITY IMPACT DAY

Volunteers from TruStage (formerly known as CUNA Mutual Group) came out to EMCC for a morning of teamwork and fun! A little outdoor fun in the garden and inside organizing donations for the clothing and household distribution. TruStage is a financial supporter of the EMCC youth academic programs too. ■



www.trustage.com



SIGMA PI FRATERNITY

Hello everyone! My name is Josh Peters, and I am a member of a UW-Madison fraternity called Sigma Pi. Very recently we had the wonderful opportunity to fundraise for EMCC through our annual event, Pie a Pi. This year we were able to raise around \$1000, all of which went directly back to EMCC! Additionally, we also joined them on a Saturday to compete in a Lego building competition and some dodgeball. We love what the EMCC does for the area and can't wait to work with them more in the future! ■



FINDHELP.ORG

FindHelp.org volunteers selected EMCC for a team volunteer activity. They worked in the children's garden, First Impressions closet and organizing the garage. FindHelp.org is an online resource to search and connect to support such as financial assistance, food pantries, medical care and other free or reduced-cost help. ■



www.findhelp.org



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



**PUBLIC HEALTH
MADISON & DANE COUNTY**

Public Health Madison & Dane County table regularly during the food pantry on Tuesdays and also bring out staff to conduct on-site HIV testing. ■



THE MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The EMCC neighborhood enjoyed a special visit from the Madison Public Library and Dream Bus which brought DJ Martinez White to the center. Residents came outside to enjoy the music alongside the summer day camp kids. ■



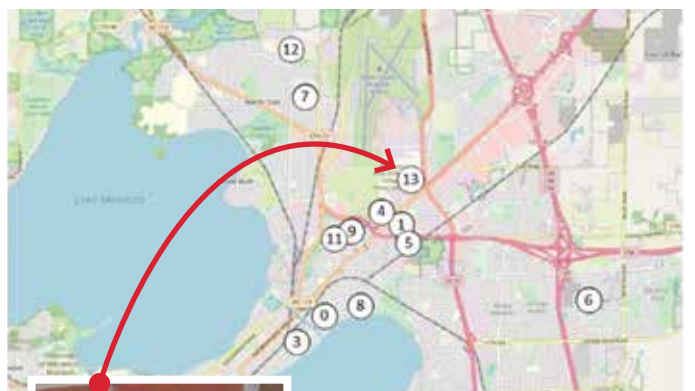
THE RIVER FOOD PANTRY

The River Food Pantry Munch Mobile Lunch stops at EMCC each week to deliver fresh fruits and meals to the Truax neighborhood Monday and Fridays from 1:30 - 1:50 pm. The kids particularly like the snack bags and fruit. ■



NEWBRIDGE MADISON

EMCC is working with NewBridge to bring programs for older community members here at EMCC. The first event will be bingo for ages 50+. ■



SAFE SKIES

With a grant from Safe Skies, a new noise monitor was installed at the East Madison Community Center. It is identified as #13. Thanks to EMCC for hosting the monitor, and Scott Pigg for his hardware and software skills to create the monitors and web site. ■

Continuous and previous readings are now available at:
www.msnsound.com

YOUTH PROGRAM STAFF PROFILE



SARAH JACOBSEN

This is Sarah Jacobsen and I am so excited to be back in the Madison Area and back at EMCC! Picking up in June as the Kids Garden and Nutrition Coordinator was both a joy to return to the EMCC community that has become like a second family and a challenge to take on a garden that was beginning to lose the battle to the weeds. Thankfully with some much

appreciated volunteer help, the kids garden is on track to looking beautiful and welcoming again. Feel free to say hi and ask me any gardening questions!

I've spent the last 2 years in Denver, Colorado teaching 7th grade science and obtaining my Masters of Education. While being a middle school teacher was impactful, I have desperately missed Madison and being outside. I have permanently moved back to Madison and am working at a farm in Fitchburg and another farm in Verona in addition to EMCC. Gardening and cooking with kids is one of the best jobs in the whole world. So far, we have made berry yogurt parfaits, veggie pita pizzas, and kale chips. If you want to try any of the recipes we make in Garden Club, the recipe sheets are printed and available to take in a plastic bin near the EMCC front office. ■

Save the Date



Mark your calendar for the
2023 EMCC Bowlathon
November 4th, 12-3pm

My name is Elijah Smith. I am 18 years old and graduated from East High School. I'm a youth staff member at the EMCC. I work with the kids and help them with homework from school and the homework packets that they get at the Center. I am going to Madison College and after I complete the 2½ year Liberal Arts transfer program I will go to the UW Madison. My dream is to work at EPIC.



Congrats **ELIJAH!**



EMCC sends out **special thanks** to the family and friends of EMCC volunteer Michelle Karsten who recently passed away. She was loved by the food pantry team and will be remembered fondly.

Behind on your bill? MGE is here to help.



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Your community energy company

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

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

THANK YOU
to American Family for printing Centerpoints!



EMCC FOOD PANTRY

Tuesdays from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

EMCC HOPE'S PROGRAMS

HOLISTIC ORGANIZATION OF PARTNERS FOR ECONOMIC STABILITY

Hy-Vee Grocery Store Tour

EMCC recently partnered with the Hy-Vee grocery store on East Washington Avenue to provide a budget friendly tour in English and Spanish. Aryn DeGrave, Hy-Vee Corporate Dietician, took two groups on a store tour featuring the best budget-friendly finds, how to plan meals, shop smarter and compare products for the best value!

Tour participant Gary Lothe said the tour was "educational and helpful for your health. We also learned about color-coding of canned vegetables for low sodium, no salt and regular brands." Another participant also stated that she has changed how she shops and eats more vegetables! The group enjoyed lunch at the store restaurant and also received a gift card to buy groceries. ■



Learn Sewing Skills at EMCC

Learning the skill of sewing continues to be a popular program at EMCC. New this summer was three intermediate sewing sessions. Program participants who completed the six beginner classes could bring their new machines and make more challenging projects. Some additional participants already knew how to sew and brought their own machines to join the fun!

With the help of teachers Carolyn Benforado and Barb Wink, the classes this summer completed projects including zippered pouches, lounge pants and aprons.

The program has really taken off and participants expressed interest in meeting more often to sew. Starting in August, the group is meeting at EMCC on Mondays from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. This program is not a "learn to sew" class for beginners, but the participants do help each other as needed. The first community service project for this group is to make aprons for the EMCC youth program to use in the nutrition and cooking classes. ■



Learn more about EMCC programs at
www.eastmadisoncc.org





NEIGHBORHOODS USA
NEWSLETTER AWARD
FIRST PLACE WINNER!

Current occupant or

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

EMCC 2023 VOLUNTEERS

Youth Volunteers

Gabriela Bruno, Dominic Dean, Nate Fitzpatrick, Sincere Gains, Antuan Graves-Haskings, Jaiden Hill, Alizae Horrighs, Zaniya Lewis, James Moore, Brayden Maggit, Shavonna Williams

Food/Clothing/Household Items Distribution

Marbeli Bruno, Martha Galston, Rosie Haskins, Perez Kirkpatrick, Melonita Morment, Tami Niemisto, Mylas Sparks, Tobi Spatola, Nyriah Tillman, LC Williams, Ryan Zelen, CDA East, East High School

Program Volunteers

Marbeli Bruno, JP Cullen, Jamie Freundlich, Martha Galston, Rosie Haskins, Cynthia Jackson, Olivia Lange, Janvier Mukunzi, Zach Robinson, Sara Scott, Ascendium Education Group, Associated Bank, Madison College Service Learning Academy, FindHelp.org, Starbucks, TruStage

Graphic Design

Sandy Wagener, MTH Design

Board Members

Erika Brown, Marbeli Bruno, Larry Hamlin, Neri Haried, Rosie Haskins, Tracy Lomax, Meghan O'Dell, Jamal Palmer, Sharon Rice, Tauri Robinson, Je'Dauri Robinson, J. Alberto Quiroga, Alex Shade

Resource Development

Larry Hamlin, Bunny Lenburg

thanks!



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- Admin. Assistant: Typhanny Greene
- Assistant Food Pantry Coordinator/Office Assistant: Martha Galston
- Accountant: Bonnie Krattiger
- Youth Nutrition & Garden Coordinator: Sarah Jacobsen
- Youth Workers: Ashley Bruno, Elijah Smith, James Xiong, Richard Xiong

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