



NEIGHBORHOODS USA NEWSLETTER AWARD
FIRST PLACE WINNER!

EMCC Celebrates Holiday Traditions!

Adult Holiday Party

We hosted our second annual Adult Holiday Party on December 14th, 2024 transforming EMCC into a winter wonderland with festive music and a holiday photo backdrop complete with props and whimsical glasses. Chick-Fil-A generously provided delicious food. Attendees played lively games including, "Make a Snowman", "Candy Dice", "JOY Category Race", and "Bingo". The excitement

continued with a White Elephant gift exchange, ensuring everyone left with a gift. Thanks to all the wonderful community members that attended; it was a joyous and fun night to share in each others company. Shout out to our amazing volunteers, Rosie Haskins, Martha Galston, and Sara Scott. We were excited to see a full guest list this year and we look forward to continuing this tradition! ■



Pre-Teen Holiday Party

We all know that Santa is a pretty busy person around Christmas time, yet he found time to stop by the East Madison Community Center to bless over 75 families with some Christmas cheer. EMCC had its annual Pre-Teen Christmas party where we invite families who have school aged kids out to have a meet and greet as well as getting a present from Santa



while enjoying some good music, and mini Christmas carnival where they win even more presents (toys). ■



Holiday Baskets



Another successful Holiday Basket drive is on the books! Over 50 households got either a turkey or a ham, fresh fruit, canned sweet potatoes, a bag of potatoes, pudding, and a pack of candy canes. There was lots of holiday cheer as guests braved the winter weather and shared their thanks. Huge shout out to our wonderful volunteers Matt Steensen and Marbeli Bruno without who we could not have held the event! ■

Thanks to...

- Lake Edge United Church of Christ
- Messiah Lutheran Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Hope Lutheran Church
- Word of Life ACM Church

Visit EMCC's website at www.eastmadisoncc.org

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Guest MC Mackenzie Davis, NBC15



**EAST
MADISON
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

Bowl-A-Thon

28TH ANNUAL • 2024



An Afternoon of Fun and Generosity

On Saturday, November 9th, 2024 the community gathered at Dream Lanes for the highly anticipated 28th Annual Bowl-a-Thon, a festive event that brings people of all ages together for an afternoon of bowling, camaraderie, and charitable giving.

The event has become a beloved tradition and draws in participants from all walks of life. From seasoned bowlers to first-timers, everyone came with a shared sense of excitement, ready to bowl and support the community. With teams from local businesses, schools, and families, Dream Lanes was filled

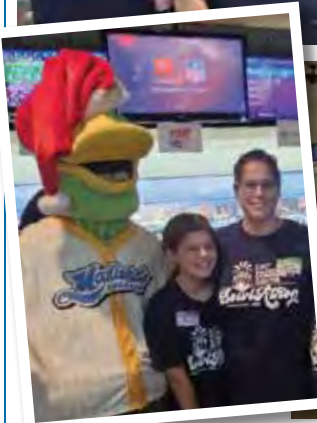
with energy and laughter all afternoon. There were other activities to keep the fun rolling. A 50/50 raffle and prizes for everyone added to the vibrant atmosphere. Guests enjoyed delicious food and drinks from Pizza Pit inside Dream Lanes, creating a welcoming and festive environment. There were even special prizes for the top teams and individuals, sparking friendly competition and cheers of excitement. But beyond the entertainment and good times, the real magic of the Bowl-a-Thon came from the incredible generosity of everyone involved.



Thanks to the combined efforts of participants, sponsors, and volunteers, the event raised over \$50,000, all of which will benefit EMCC education programs.

The success of the 28th Annual Bowl-a-Thon is a testament to the spirit of giving that defines this long-standing event. It's more than just about bowling — it's about bringing people together for a common purpose, having fun while making a difference. As the evening came to a close, participants left with full hearts, knowing that their support had a lasting impact on EMCC. Dream Lanes once again proved to be the perfect venue for this fantastic event, and organizers are already looking forward to next year's Bowl-a-Thon, hoping to raise even more funds and continue the tradition of fun and philanthropy.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and contributed to making the 28th Annual Bowl-a-Thon such a memorable night. ■



facebook

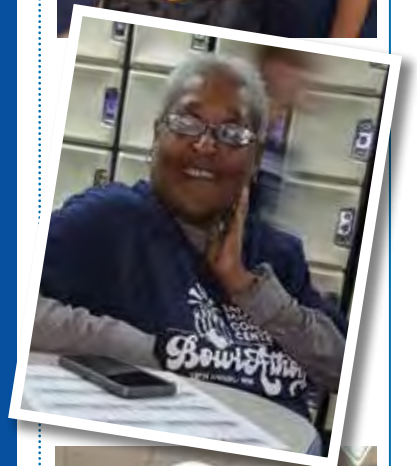


We are on Facebook! On Facebook, we have our up-to-date schedule of events. You will also be able to see pictures of EMCC events. Give us a "Like", so you stay up-to-date with what is happening in the community.



2024 Prize Donors

- Escape This
- Ancora Coffee
- Players Sports Pub
- Rosati's Pizza
- Gail Ambrosius
- Lazy Oaf Lounge
- Moka
- Brass Ring
- Princeton Club
- Club LaMark
- Fortune Favors
- Overture Center
- Forward Madison FC
- Harmony Bar
- Madison Mallards
- Let's Roam Scavenger Hunt
- Madison Modern Market
- Capitol City Tattoo
- Goodman's Jewelers
- Culvers
- Willy St. Coop
- Klein's Floral



2024 Bowl-a-Thon Sponsors



Thanks!

YOUTH News

YOUTH PROFILE



Charleston Knox

Age: 9

School: Sandburg
Elementary, 4th Grade

Favorite School Subject:
Music, Math & Gym

Years Attending the EMCC:
1.5 years

Favorite EMCC Program:
Reading & Boys Group

Hobbies:
Playing Tag

Favorite Food:
Lasagna

Adult Role Model:
Grandmother



Last year's Summer Camp was one for the history books. After 35 years of dedicated service from John Harmelink we embarked on a new era, while keeping the tradition intact. Serving 35 youth from across the city and even some from as far away as Chicago, we had the opportunity to explore activities such as swimming, canoeing, kayaking and Troy Gardens. We had fun and the kids enjoyed it. Next year will bring more fun but most importantly EDUCATION; as we are becoming an official summer school site with the Madison Metropolitan School District. ■

Registration for
Summer Camp is Open
APRIL 1, 2025

Creative Power = Art!

On a Wednesday afternoon you will see Ms. Amanda Riley and a group of kids using their creative power to create beautiful art projects. Many of them will be around the Community Center for all to enjoy. Ms. Amanda has a master's degree in elementary education, and is a self-taught textile artist but, did not go to art school. Amanda has a textile art piece about prairie soil ecology at the Madison Children's Museum if people want to see her work. ■



YOUTH PROFILE



CJ Holmes

Age: 10

School: Sandburg
Elementary, 5th Grade

Favorite School Subject:
Math & Gym

Years Attending the EMCC:
1.5 years

Favorite EMCC Program:
Boys Group

Hobbies:
Basketball

Favorite Food:
Spaghetti

Adult Role Model:
Uncle Dave

EMCC STAFF PROFILE



Shavonna Williams

- East High School, 16 years old
- EMCC Youth Staff: 1.5 years
- Favorite Sport: Volleyball
- Favorite School Subject: Choir
- Wants to be a Flight Attendant



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



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We are grateful for the incredible volunteer groups from American Family Insurance, Ascendium Education Group, Associated Bank, JP Cullen, the Madison Fire Department, TruStage, and UW Credit Union who dedicated their time and energy to support our community center. Their hard work, enthusiasm, and generosity made a meaningful impact, from organizing events to assisting with programs. **Thank you for making a difference — EMCC couldn't function without you!!** ■

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE



ASCENDIUM EDUCATION GROUP



ASSOCIATED BANK



MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT



JP CULLEN



TRUSTAGE



UW CREDIT UNION



Save ^{the} Date

The Hawthorne Neighborhood Association meets at **6pm the first Monday of every month** at Hawthorne Elementary. Please join us! If you would like to be added to the communications please email: hnamadisonwi@gmail.com

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 HOPES PROGRAMS

HOLISTIC ORGANIZATION OF PARTNERS FOR ECONOMIC STABILITY

EMCC's HOPES (Holistic Organizational Partners in Educational Success) program has been expanded to include activities for seniors, thanks to a grant from the Madison Community Foundation. Some highlights for seniors include workshops on caring for elders with Dementia, scams and frauds targeting seniors, digital literacy classes (in partnership with the Madison Senior Center) and social events such as bingo & lunch, puzzles & pretzels, and outings to Fired Up Pottery and Crema Cafe. For adults and families, we have had boating, pumpkin patch, holiday lights show, Bolz Conservatory outings, bingo, cooking classes, writing workshops, and movie night. Most recently we have added Mystery Maker Monday, a creative art experience to support mental health and build community, Fitness Classes and Wellness Workshops. There's something for everyone!! ■

Sign up in the front office, by calling **608-249-0861** or emailing info@eastmadisoncc.org

SENIOR PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW ITS PARTICIPANTS AND EVENTS

Starting June 2024, EMCC launched an engaging senior program designed to foster community connections, joy, and lifelong learning for local seniors. The program has grown over the past few months into a highlight for many in the community, offering activities that range from field trips to bingo to art projects. It aims to keep seniors active and connected with each other and their community. This new senior program has already had a lasting impact on the lives of its participants, and with more events on the horizon, it promises to be an integral part of the community for years to come. ■



BINGO BIG WINS!

Our recent bingo events at the Center were a huge success, bringing together friends and neighbors for fun-filled evenings. Laughter, excitement, and big wins made each game special, with many lucky players taking home great prizes. ■



COOKING CLASSES FOR ALL

In fall, UW-Extension led cooking classes geared towards teens, adults, and seniors. Classes at the Center were a delightful mix of learning, creativity, and delicious flavors. Participants had a great time mastering healthy new recipes, sharing culinary tips, and enjoying their homemade dishes. A big thank you to our instructor Leo Muñoz who always arrived with a smile on his face—we can't wait to cook up more fun in a future session! ■



NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT OUT

On August 6th, EMCC hosted its 3rd annual Neighborhood Night Out Ice Cream Social. Many Madison Police Department officers and academy cadets attended the event, helping serve ice cream, chatting with community members, and giving drone demos. Kids raced each other and learned how fast their sprint was with the help of a radar gun. The Wisconsin National Air Guard Explosive Ordinance Disposal also gave demos with some of the equipment they use. ■



2025 Neighborhood Night Out August 5th



Learn more about EMCC programs at www.eastmadisoncc.org



EMCC HOPES PROGRAMS continued....

OLBRICH AFTER HOURS

Summer in Wisconsin can feel so short. It's nice to slow down and enjoy the warm weather with a sunset concert and dance performance at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. For EMCC's July Adult Outing, we went to Olbrich After Hours to see Cycropia Aerial Dance with Searchlights and Ho Etsu Taiko. After eating our picnic dinner, we all sat back in lawn chairs and enjoyed the show. ■



AUGUST BACK TO SCHOOL AND HEALTH FAIR

The August Back to School and Health Fair was a tremendous success, bringing together over 20 vendors, numerous community members, and a variety of free services aimed at enhancing community health. Hosted at EMCC with co-host Molina Healthcare, this event offered a wide array of health-focused resources and educational opportunities to attendees of all ages.



One of the most popular features was the free vision screenings by Lions Club and free dental screenings by Familia Dental. The screenings drew in a large crowd, many of whom found the accessible healthcare opportunity extremely beneficial, particularly for early detection of issues that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Over 70 backpacks with school supplies were given away to K-12 students. Adding to the community spirit, there was free food available to all who attended.



An exciting drawing for prizes also brought a sense of fun to the event. Attendees eagerly entered the raffle for a chance to win a variety of wellness-themed prizes, including fitness equipment, gift cards, and wellness products donated by participating vendors. This added a lively element to the fair, with several lucky winners leaving with valuable items.

A unique highlight of the fair was the mobile trash lab by Dane County Department of Trash and Renewables. Trash Lab is an interactive educational exhibit that offers a closer look at waste management and its impact on health and the environment to educate about the importance of reducing waste and recycling to create a cleaner, healthier community.

Overall, the August Health Fair was a resounding success, providing invaluable health resources, education, and community bonding, with many already looking forward to next year's event. ■

Net-Zero

CARBON ELECTRICITY BY 2050

Let's work together toward a more sustainable future.

Visit Madison Gas and Electric online.

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- Find energy-saving tips and resources.
- Explore electric vehicles.
- Access online bill payment, safety information and more.

MGE.COM

MGE2050.COM



EMCC FOOD PANTRY

Tuesdays from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

mgoe
your community energy company

East Madison Community Center

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Madison, WI 53704

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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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 2025 VOLUNTEERS

Youth Volunteers

Antuan Graves-Haskins, Zach Burton, Zaniya Lewis, Brayden Maggit, Aiden Sanneh, Jerome Gibson-Murphy, Antonio Harris, Kiarrah Jackson

Food/Clothing/Household Items Distribution

John Boyton, Steve Bradley, Marylin Barker, Angela Braebender, Marbeli Bruno, Mary Cuccia, Martha Galston, Naykea Harrison, Rosie Haskins, Vicki McDonald, Judy Morhoff Carlson, Tami Niemisto, Mylas Sparks, Matthew Steensen, Nariyah Tillman, LC Williams, Susanna Yangzapata, Tyler Zelen, Ryan Zelen, CDA East, MMSD, National Guard

Program Volunteers

Marbeli Bruno, Karen Contreras, Martha Galston, Melissa Gundlach, Rosie Haskins, Amanda Riley, Zach Robinson, Sara Scott, Matt Steensen, Tami Niemisto, Aaron Wolfersperger, Ascendium Education Group, Associated Bank, Madison College Service Learning Academy, Old National Bank, TruStage, UW Credit Union, JP Cullen, American Family Insurance, Madison Fire Department

Graphic Design/Newsletter

Sandy Wagener

Board Members

Marbeli Bruno, Antonio Cruz-Rodriguez, Keia Freeman, Neri Haried, Rosie Haskins, Diane Keene-Meadowcroft, Tracy Lomax, Jamal Palmer, Sharon Rice, Tauri Robinson, Je 'Dauri Robinson, Bridget Rogers, J. Alberto Quiroga, Bejay Udchitz

thanks!



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