East Madison community center

Center points

NEIGHBORHOODS USA NEWSLETTER AWARD
FIRST PLACE WINNER!

VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 2 • 2024

Competition was HOT at EMCC's 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off!

EMCC's 4th Annual Chili Cook-off was a great time. This annual event, put on hold due to COVID, has resumed. We hosted ten competitors this year and it was a difficult choice.

Top chili went to Chef Alex and his CB Chili, second place to Chef Marcus and his East Side Original Chili and third place to Chef Kelly and her Spring Kick Chili.

Thank you goes out to all the competitors who brought the heat, veggies and meat. It was a lot of fun tasting so many great chilis. Thank you goes out to Hy-Vee for the generous donation of cornbread which complemented the chili.

Guests were also able to get resources from community partners, Hy-Vee, Vivent Health and Molina Healthcare. Thank you all and start thinking about your recipe for 2025! ■

1st PLACE: Chef Alex

2nd PLACE: Chef Marcus

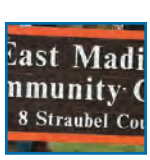
3rd PLACE: Chef Kelly

Thank you all and start thinking about your recipe for 2025!

Visit EMCC's website at www.eastmadisoncc.org

Woody Carey Scholarships Pg. 2

New Staff Roles at EMCC Pg. 3



Honoring Tom and John Pg.4-5

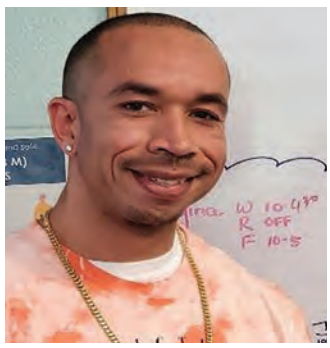
HOPES Programs Highlights Pg. 7

Woody Carey Scholarship Awards

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 on 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 he went to college, the scholarships he obtained were essential to him being able to afford to attend. Likewise, the EMCC has awarded six exemplary students with scholarships as a result of this year's awards. ■

James Xiong

James currently has a 3.58 GPA in high school and wants to transfer to UW-Madison from Madison College and get a degree in Applied Mathematics, Engineering & Physics. He has always had a strong love and aptitude for Math and wants to find a job in his field where he can help to support his eleven siblings as they have done for him. James is also currently a youth worker at EMCC. ■



Joseph Brown

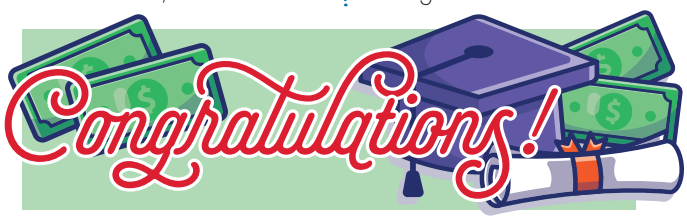
Joseph is in his second year of the Respiratory Therapy program at Madison College. He wants to set a good example for his 12 year old son by being the first person in his family to graduate from college. He wants to use his degree to help people be their best and feel like he is giving back to his community. Joseph's son is a regular participant of the EMCC after school and summer programs. ■

Josephine Segrado

Josephine volunteered at EMCC and updated social media platforms. She wants to transfer from Madison College and attend UW-Madison or UW-Milwaukee School of Engineering and get her degree in Electrical Engineering. With her degree she would like to find practical solutions to resolve access to electrical energy in the country where she is from, Burkina Faso. ■

Param Bhandare

Param is a volunteer at the EMCC and is interested in serving for the environmental concerns in the East Madison neighborhood and the Southern Wisconsin area more broadly. He has geospatial training from UW-Madison and is specializing by gaining engineering skills at Madison College before going back to UW to complete training to become an engineer. ■



Karen Contreras Rodriguez

Karen is currently attending Madison College in the Fitness, Recreation & Wellness Management program. She would like to eventually be an ACE Health Coach and Precision Nutrition Coordinator where she can work one on one with clients. Karen has been volunteering at the Center helping to improve the online presence of EMCC. ■

Nariyah Tillman

Nariyah will be starting towards her Associates degree in early childhood education so she can one day get a job at Head Start or Madison College. As a young mother she wants to show her children and her community her determination and responsibility to create a better path for herself and her family. Nariyah is a regular volunteer at the EMCC Food Pantry. ■

Tuesdays from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

facebook

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

Familiar faces take on new roles at EMCC

(Shown from left to right) Nate Savado, Youth Program Manager Typhanny Greene, Facility Operations Manager; Sarah Jacobsen, Program Coordinator; Regina McConnell, Executive Director.

EMCC would like to welcome the new executive director, a familiar face at EMCC, **Regina McConnell**. Regina has served at EMCC for 8+ years in various roles and most recently as the Assistant Director. Regina has over 20 years of non-profit experience in Madison area agencies including Neighborhood House and Bridge Lake Point Waunona (BLW) community centers, Second Harvest Foodbank and EMCC. She brings the experience and the skills needed to develop and manage programs and fundraising necessary to support EMCC's mission. Working in the community has been a driving force in her career. In addition to non-profit work, Regina taught biology and physical education. She enjoys learning languages and studies Spanish to better serve the community. Her favorite EMCC hosted activities are the pontoon boat rides, end-of-school year BBQ and community bingo.

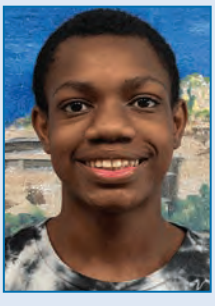
EMCC's youth programs are now under the guidance of **Mr. Nate Savado**. Nate is also a familiar face at EMCC and has worked at the center for 16 years. He says, "The community center feels like my second family." Nate's favorite program is Alternatives to Violence. "It is still shocking to me that 15-20 youth attend this program every Saturday morning, I thought it was the donuts that got them here; but come to find out the kids like the deep discussions we have in the group."

EMCC STAFF PROFILES

Aaron Wolfersperger

- EMCC Intern (UW Madison)Social Work
- From San Francisco
- Hobbies: Cookies, Skiing, and Reading

"It's been a pleasure working with the kids here."



James Moore

- East High School, 14 years old
- Former EMCC Participant
- Favorite Sport: Basketball
- Favorite School Subject: Guitar
- Wants to be an Astronaut

"I grew up in at EMCC as a participant, now I am a teen youth worker making real money while helping the youth in my own community become better people."

Ms. Typhanny Greene after serving the community for 13+ years has been promoted from Administrative Assistant to Facility Operations Manager. Before starting at EMCC she was in Property Management, Records Management for the State Bar of Wisconsin and Planning & Development. In her spare time she likes to read and listen to live music. Typhanny hopes to travel more and see what the world has to offer.

Sarah Jacobsen started at EMCC in 2015 as the Kids Garden Coordinator. The kids at EMCC were so wonderful that she knew she had to stay at EMCC, and the position evolved to include nutrition classes when it was too cold to garden. After graduating from UW-Madison and obtaining a Masters of Education in Denver, Sarah missed the Midwest and returned to Madison. Initially, she resumed her role of Kids Garden Coordinator, then transitioned to running the Kids Meal Program, and recently began her role as Program Coordinator. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening, and spending time with friends and family. ■

Twins! YOUTH PROFILE

Chase Wright

Age: 7

School: Hawthorne Elementary, 2nd Grade

Favorite School Subject: Math

Years Attending the EMCC: 1.5 years

Favorite EMCC Program: Free Choice in Gym

Hobbies: Running

Favorite Food: Brownies

Adult Role Model: Police Officers

Chance Wright

Age: 7

School: Hawthorne Elementary, 2nd Grade

Favorite School Subject: Math

Years Attending the EMCC: 1.5 years

Favorite EMCC Program: Learning Center

Hobbies: Football

Favorite Food: Noodles

Adult Role Model: His Friends

Learn more about EMCC programs at **www.eastmadisoncc.org**

Tom Moen & John Harmelink hailed for decades of service & commitment to EMCC

By Nathan Beck and Regina McConnell

If you've ever met Tom Moen and John Harmelink at the East Madison Community Center, you'll know they've got lots of stories to tell and a big legacy. Moen was hired as director of the East Madison Community Center (EMCC) in May of 1974 at an hourly rate of $3.50 per hour and was the only paid staff. He may have hitchhiked out of there, as he was prone to do in those days, but there was something special about EMCC.

Fifty years later EMCC remains the only workplace on his resume.

If you've had the privilege to meet him, you may notice he's dressed for, well, something other than a meeting (sleeveless T-shirts are a favorite). Maybe that's because as the director, especially in those early days, he was everything. He was the leader, the secretary, the janitor, the maintenance worker, the lawn mower, the summer camp director and the event planner.

EMCC started out in two small apartments. In response to a mother's group wanting a safe place for their children during out-of-school time, he developed educational, social and recreational activities for all ages. As needs grew, Moen successfully ran three capital campaigns to add onto the building. Today, thanks to Moen, EMCC has a fitness center, full-size gym, two kitchens, meeting rooms, a teen room, a pre-teen room, a computer lab and more. Moen has touched so many lives, so many youth, so many families — too many to count.

Above: John Harmelink works with EMCC youth. Left: Tom and his son Kyle at the 23rd Annual EMCC Bowlathon. Both received the M.O.S.T Legacy Award for their exceptional decades of commitment to the EMCC.

> *You've got to have a sense of creativity, patience and grit. And the fact that they both dedicated nearly their whole careers to the same Center is nothing short of a miracle.*

Many people come back to EMCC to help out in the same way that EMCC helped them. Youth program participants went on to college, had families, successful careers and more. Some participants stay on to become board members under his guidance. Moen is soft-spoken, humble and does not do what he does for awards. He gave his entire career to EMCC to better the lives of youth and their families. His legacy will live on forever at EMCC.

In 1990, John Harmelink joined Moen at EMCC and has served as the youth program manager and summer camp director at the EMCC ever since.

In Harmelink's over 30 years, he has worked with more than 3,000 youths, been instrumental in developing award-winning programs such as the Positive Options Program, Alternatives to Violence and Social/Emotional Programs. Many of the youths with whom Harmelink has worked have gone on to graduate from college and technical schools. Some graduates of the EMCC programs have served on the EMCC board, including the current board president. Many have become staff at EMCC, and one was recognized alongside him as an outstanding youth worker at a ceremony on Aug. 28. Harmelink has also implemented a teen work program at the center; the teens first start as volunteers and then move to paid junior staff positions.

> *Moen & Harmelink retired this year, marking an end to their day-to-day work at EMCC, but not the legacy they created.*

Harmelink's legacy too, will live on forever.

It is hard to put into words what it takes to work in a community center for as long as these two have. For sure, the work is joyful, but it's also unending. Impossible problems meet scarce resources day after day. You've got to have a sense of creativity, patience and grit. And the fact that they both dedicated nearly their whole careers — almost a century — to the same center is nothing short of a miracle.

Moen and Harmelink also retired this year, marking an end to their day-to-day work at EMCC, but not the legacy they created.

On Aug. 28th Madison Out-of-School Time (MOST) acknowledged their exceptional commitment with the first ever Legacy Award. They are more than deserving. ■

Nathan Beck is Madison's Out-of-School Time coordinator. Regina McConnell is executive director of EMCC.

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

John Harmelink honored for 32 years at EMCC

The Madison-area Out-of-School Time (MOST) initiative ensures that all of Madison's children and youth have access to comprehensive, high-quality, out-of-school time programs that support positive youth development, educational achievement, and readiness for college, career, and community. MOST is a collaboration between the City of Madison, Dane County, Madison Metropolitan School District, and over 45 Madison-area youth-serving organizations. The 2024 Legacy Award winners are Tom Moen and John Harmelink who have collectively given nearly a century of service to young people and families at East Madison Community Center. ■

Here's what EMCC program youth are saying about John....

I think that John is an honest and genuine man. He cared for DECADES to take care of the kids, me being one of them. Growing up I was just living life you know? But there were always rough days and rough times, and through these days there were always a few people there, but John has been there for my whole life. This is 11 years we're talking about here, John was here with not only me but for many of my siblings that came here YEARS before me. John has been here to teach us a lot, not only about academics, but morals. I love and appreciate this man John Harmelink and I think that he's the right man for this award. - Richard Xiong, age 16

I've known you since I was two. Now, I am 12 and enjoy talking to you about any of my problems. I've enjoyed my bond with you, when we were to joke about each other. Thanks for taking me to places, for example, Mt Olympus, Little Americka and more. All the foods, sports and events and even more were enjoyable. I know you should get the award for helping both youth and teens, no matter what the problem was. - Antuan Haskins, age 12

When I got here, I was a troublemaker trying to be like the bigger kids. John changed my mindset on how to act. I became a good kid willing to help people and ready to learn. I even excelled in academics because of his help. I am truly grateful for him shaping and helping to leave a path for me to walk from the age of 5 to now. - James Xiong, age 18

John, you are an honest, inspiring, and generous man. Anytime you were available I was able to talk to you anytime I could. I look up to you a lot and I want to be a successful man like you. I wish you well in your new journey. - James Moore, age 14

EMCC's Tom Moen receives Neighborhood USA award

The NUSA Board of Directors would like to congratulate the neighborhoods and non-profit organizations who won at the 49th Annual NUSA Conference held in Lubbock, Texas in May 2024, hosted by the North & East Lubbock Community Development Corporation. The NUSA conference held over three days had an attendance of over 300 attendees from across the US, and Bahamas. Neighborhoods had the opportunity to enter their community projects and newsletters that were judged by a panel of judges. Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) is a national, non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences used to build stronger communities, NUSA continues to encourage networking and information-sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships among neighborhood organizations, government, and the private sector for the ultimate goal of strengthening every neighborhood.

The Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods award was created to recognize those individuals whose work mirrors the mission of Neighborhoods, USA: to build and strengthen neighborhoods associations; to encourage neighborhood involvement in the decision-making process in local governments; and to promote productive communications and collaborations between neighborhood associations, local governments and the public/private sector. ■

Tom Moen of EMCC was a recipient of the 2024 NUSA's Who's Who in America's Neighborhood Award.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT **NUSA** GO TO **www.nusa.org**

EMCC Area Neighborhood Associations

CARPENTER-RIDGEWAY

The Carpenter-Ridgeway Neighborhood took root in March of 1876 when John Quincy Brigham and his wife, Mary Carpenter-Brigham, purchased farms in the area, with the original site located at 3361 Sun Prairie Road (now called East Washington Avenue). The neighborhood was platted in 1924 to include the land between Wright Street and Melvin Court and from East Washington to Quincy Avenue, and a stretch of land along Fair Oaks Avenue was added in 1929. In 1956, the neighborhood was officially annexed to the City of Madison. The neighborhood continues to grow, with more housing currently under development. In recent years, the Carpenter-Ridgeway Neighbor has also added kiosks, gardens, neighborhood signs, walking paths, an art installation called "The Tree of Life," and Carpenter-Ridgeway Park play area with a labyrinth for peaceful walking.

The Carpenter-Ridgeway Neighborhood Association (CRNA) meets monthly and provides support for neighborhood improvements, including trail maintenance and sign and kiosk repairs. In addition, the CRNA hosts two annual neighborhood gatherings, one in winter and one in fall. Monthly CRNA meetings are usually conducted over Zoom. **Anyone interested in attending can email carpenterridgeway@gmail.com for a link to the next meeting.** ■

THE HAWTHORNE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Hawthorne Neighborhood Association (HNA) has regrouped in early 2024 after several years of hiatus. There has been a lot of recent and potential future development in and around the Hawthorne neighborhood including the new RISE Development, potential Highway 151 changes and possible development at the former Pedro's restaurant.

Any neighborhood residents or business owners are encouraged to attend monthly meetings. **The HNA meets the second Monday of each month at EMCC at 6pm. To get added to the email list, contact HNAMadison@gmail.com** ■

TRUAX NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Truax Neighborhood Association (TNA) is one of the neighborhood associations that serves Madison's east side. The TNA is located inside the Truax Park Apartments complex located near MATC's Truax Campus. TNA also works closely with the EMCC to promote educational, recreational and community activities for all residents of its service area. **TNA meets the first Monday of each quarter in Jan, April, July, Oct unless posted otherwise.** ■

NORTH STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The North Street Neighborhood Association formed in 2023 when the Emerson East Neighborhood Association and the Eken Park Neighborhood Association merged. Our monthly meetings are on the first Thursday of each month from 6:30-7:30pm. Our meetings are usually held at Bashford Church at 329 North Street, with an option to join remotely. Membership is open to anyone, regardless of whether you rent or own your home.

We hold several annual events, including an Earth Day Clean Up, a neighborhood yard sale, and the Eken Park Festival.

For more information about committees and meetings, visit our website at: northstreetna.org, where you can sign up to receive our blog posts. You can also follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/NorthStreetNA. ■

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Live theater presented for EMCC Youth

By Nate Savado, EMCC Youth Program Manager

Our youth got a unique opportunity to see the play The Wind in the Willows, a classic children's novel by the British novelist Kenneth Grahame, first published in 1908. It details the story of Mole, Ratty, and Badger as they try to help Mr. Toad, after he becomes obsessed with motorcars and gets into trouble. The Madison Children's Theater did a sensational job bringing this play to life at The East Madison Community Center; not only did our youth watch the play, but every single person had a chance to participate in the play as well. Thanks again goes out to the Madison Children's Theater! ■

EMCC HOPES PROGRAMS

Holistic Organization of Partners for Economic Stability

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS AT EMCC

Financial literacy is a skill that is often overlooked. In partnership with Associated Bank, EMCC recently hosted four workshops including budgeting, saving, credit. Participants had a lot of great questions and received one-on-one assistance as well. Thanks Associated Bank! ■

IT IS OFFICIAL!! WE ARE PART OF THE VILLAGE DIAPER BANK

the village DIAPER BANK

EMCC will now be able to assist families with a regular supply of diapers, pull ups and wipes. We will still have Project Babies coming in the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of the month to do their pop-up giveaways and they will have diapers and other baby items available as well. If you know a family in need please tell them to contact the front office and we would love to help them with this necessity. ■

EMCC TEAMS UP WITH COVERING WISCONSIN

The EMCC received a grant from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension to connect people to resources for healthcare coverage, and navigating the healthcare system.

- **Find help for signing up for insurance**
- **Learn more about health insurance**
- **Information on BadgerCare Plus**

covering Wisconsin

Go to: coveringwi.org

EMCC FAMILIES & SENIORS OUT & ABOUT

Bingo & Olbrich Gardens

EMCC hosted Bingo and Lunch for 50+ adults. Prizes included gift cards, cleaning supplies, toiletries, toys, and games. After a few rounds of regular, four corners, X, and blackout bingo, everyone won at least one prize and sometimes more. Stay tuned for more bingo coming in this fall.

EMCC Older Adults program enjoyed a night out at Olbrich Gardens for dinner and entertainment by Cycropia Aerial Dance, with Searchlights and Ho Etsu Taiko. Special thanks to EMCC's new Adult, Senior and Family Coordinator, Sarah Jacobsen. ■

Warner Park New Bridge Concert

The beginning of this year's adult and senior summer trips was to the first New Bridge concert in Warner Park. The New Orleans Jazz tribute band was fantastic and made you want to visit New Orleans. The concert was a lot of fun and everyone was jamming. ■

Family Pontoon Boat Ride

EMCC kicked off summer fun for families with a pontoon boat ride. After cruising around Lake Monona, the group docked at a park for a picnic dinner and finished with ice cream at Monona Bait & Ice Cream Shop. It was the perfect evening for a boat ride! ■

East Madison Community Center

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EAST MADISON COMMUNITY CENTER OVER 57 YEARS

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 2024 VOLUNTEERS

Youth Volunteers
Antuan Graves-Haskins, Zach Burton, Zaniya Lewis, Brayden Maggit, Aiden Sanneh, Joshua Bruno, 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, Linda (Jami) Jamison, Vicki McDonald, Judy Morhoff Carlson, Melonita Morment, Tami Niemisto, Mylas Sparks, Matthew Steensen, Nariyah Tillman, LC Williams, Susanna Yangzapata, Tyler Zelen, Ryan Zelen, CDA East, MMSD

Program Volunteers
Param Bhandare, Marbeli Bruno, Karen Contreras, Tatum Duff, Barkwende Flore, Martha Galston, Melissa Gundlach, Rosie Haskins, Alex Kaiser, Cynthia Walton-Jackson, Amanda Riley, Zach Robinson, Sara Scott, Tegawende Segrado, Matt Steensen, Aaron Wolferperger, Ascendium Education Group, Associated Bank, Madison College Service Learning Academy, Old National Bank, TruStage, UW Credit Union

Graphic Design/Newsletter
Sandy Wagener

Board Members
Marbeli Bruno, Antonio Cruz-Rodriquez, 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, Alex Shade, Bejay Udchitz

thanks!

3 CHEERS 4 Volunteers

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Center points

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Facility Operations Manager:	Typhanny Greene
Youth Program Manager:	Nate Savado
Youth Workers: James Moore, James Xiong, Shavonna Williams	Emily Ramsey, Richard Xiong
Adult, Senior & Family Prgrm. Coordinator:	Sarah Jacobsen
Office & Food Pantry Assistant:	Martha Galston
Office Assistant:	Julie Borchert
Accountant:	Bonnie Krattiger
Custodial Service:	JanPro

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United Way of Dane County

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