

EMCC provides support for families during pandemic

By Pau Xiong,
EMCC Youth Worker

As you can imagine, transitioning from in-person classes to all online schooling can be very difficult for children, teens, and families. Nevertheless, the East Madison Community Center succeeded to bring enrichment opportunities to children participating in our Youth Program, families and to the public.

I am proud to share with my community, that the EMCC has also provided tutors to support participants in their academics, provide nutritious free meals two-times a day, and work directly with the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) to support elementary, middle, and high school students in their daily Zoom classes. The EMCC also offers its Youth



Programming participants the opportunity to express their creativity through art via the support of the Community To Canvas non-profit program (see page 3 for more details). Having said that, it is most important that I share that the EMCC was able to offer these programs by taking safety precautions seriously. All students, staff and public are required to

always wear face masks inside the facility, practice social distancing while participating in any programs, frequently sanitize our hands and shared spaces while monitoring temperatures and symptoms. It is with teamwork, hope and encouragement that things will progress positively for education, health, and our well-being. ■



YOUTH PROFILE



Cortavion Thompson

School: 4th Grade,
Hawthorne Elementary

Favorite School Subject:
Math

Years lived in Madison: 2

Years attending EMCC: 2

Favorite EMCC Program:
Pre-Teen Night

Hobbies: Basketball,
Football, Video games

Favorite Food: Chinese

Adult Role Model:

My brother

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

Doctor

Words to live by:

Always try your best

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Visit EMCC's website at www.eastmadisoncc.org

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Kids' Garden Club: Winter Edition

By Sarah Jacobsen,
Children's Nutrition and Garden Coordinator

Now that it is too cold to garden outside, the EMCC kids are learning about nutrition and how our food is grown. Although we aren't cooking in the kitchen, there is still lots of interesting stuff to learn about our food system.

This winter, our lessons have centered on what's in our food and how it is grown and transported to our plate. The past few weeks we've been learning about what makes unhealthy food taste so good and so hard to turn away from: the salt-sugar-fat trifecta. We became food detectives investigating our favorite snacks like takis and hot Cheetos to see how much salt, sugar and fat they have and the ingredients and serving size. We have also been learning where food comes

from and thinking about how much time and energy it takes to move food across states and countries. Mapping out how far the ingredients of our meals traveled, a hamburger traveled over 6,000 miles to end up in Madison, WI! The more we know, the more we have the power to shape the world. The future looks bright as the kids at EMCC shine with so much curiosity and potential. ■



These are pictures of the kids drawing themselves as farmers with the crops and animals they'd want to grow and raise.



YOUTH

News

YOUTH PROFILE



Lemya Jones

School: 9th Grade, LaFollette High School

Favorite School Subject: Math

Years lived in Madison: 15

Years attending EMCC: 10

Favorite EMCC Program: Summer Day Camp

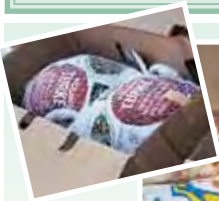
Hobbies: Reading, Video games, Puzzles

Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo

When I'm older I would like to be: FBI Profiler

Words to live by: We focus on the reasons why we "Can't" at the expense of the far greater reasons we can.

2020 HOLIDAY Food Baskets, Toys and Book Distributions



FOOD BASKET DONORS:

- Lake Edge United Church of Christ
- Messiah Lutheran Church
- Bethel Lutheran Church – ECLA
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Hope Lutheran Church
- Word of Life ACM Church
- Metcalfe's at Hilldale
- Helen H. Madsen

BOOK DONORS:

Madison Reading Project

TOY DONORS:

St. Dennis Church

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.

NEW COMMUNITY PARTNER: Community To Canvas



By Holden Brandon,
Community To Canvas,
Interim/Executive Director

Community To Canvas is a start-up nonprofit serving the Madison community. We operate by providing art experiences to our participants and creating paintings with them. Once the art is created, we help the new artists sell their pieces on our website to teach entrepreneurship and earn money.

The EMCC staff have been nothing but supportive and offered us a chance to pilot this program within their

center. The opportunity they've provided has allowed our team to impact many within the community.

Currently, Community To Canvas helps individuals looking for a new beginning by directly working with their trauma through art and seeking new opportunities for them to develop their professional skills.

EMCC has also given us a chance to work with their youth program. Here we are helping many kids through the pandemic's troubles by giving them an afterschool

Please feel free to sign up on our website or reach out via email:
Holden Brandon & Liam McGuire
community2canvas.org
Holden@community2canvas.org

program and teaching them about entrepreneurship by selling their creations to raise money for new supplies in their facilities.

EMCC's warm welcome to their center has allowed us to expand our initiative and develop our program. We are beyond thankful and proud to be a part of the

big family here. To anyone interested in participating or helping, we encourage you to paint with us whenever! ■



YOUTH PROFILE



Lyniyah Brown

School: 6th Grade, O'Keffe
Favorite School Subject: Social Studies
Years lived in Madison: 12
Years attending EMCC: 3
Favorite EMCC Program: Girls' Group

Hobbies: Gaming
Favorite Food: Chinese
Adult Role Model: My Grandparents
When I'm older I would like to be: Nail Technician or Designer
Words to live by: "Drip Drip" and Personality is Everything

Residents get connected with EMCC's Digital Access Program (DAP)

Collaborative program funded through the Public Service Commission (PSC), City of Madison and Community Development Authority (CDA)

East Madison community center Digital Access Program



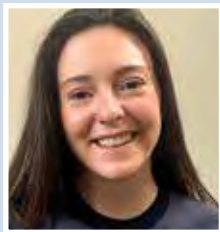
By Bryttany Dove, AmeriCorps

In December 2020, the EMCC launched its Digital Access Program (DAP), which aims to bring technological devices for those living in Truax Park Apartments and Webb-Rethke Townhomes. Residents who live in these areas can borrow laptops, hotspots, and tablets for free by filling out an interest form through the EMCC. 50 laptops were graciously gifted by Epic while 50 WiFi-hotspots and 50 data-enabled tablets were purchased through a public service commission grant.

So far, residents have rented 33 devices that will allow them to attend school, virtual doctor appointments, pay bills online, and so much more. Hau, a resident who

received a hotspot and a laptop has been using his devices to practice writing in English while writing his story about his journey to America. He has also found free software to write music and he's been uploading his music to YouTube.

One mother who is using DAP said, "I've been excited about this program since hearing about it. My two kids at home are probably wondering where their new laptop is," and another mother mentioned, "My kids are going to be able to attend online school without the internet crashing." ■



About Bryttany Dove: For my year of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA, I will be working to decrease the digital divide for CDA residents. This includes finding better ways to get residents connected to the internet and creating programs to help residents gain more digital literacy knowledge.

CPR Certification offered at EMCC

By Pau Xiong

It's not often that people have the opportunity to take a free CPR class, and it is opportunities like this that make our community, neighborhood and society safer. Did you know that a study done by the American Heart Association claims that 70% of Americans feel helpless during a cardiac emergency because they're not trained or haven't been recertified.



Johnny Winston CARES offered a CPR certification at the East Madison Community Center. While hosting this event during a pandemic, safety is our first priority, therefore those who participated in the event were socially distanced and had face masks on at all times. This was a fun, and easy activity to learn while social distancing, taking turns using the provided CPR instruments and sanitizing after one another. Not only was this activity just focused on CPR training, those who came to participate and EMCC staff were trained to be supportive bystanders if a cardiac emergency ever occurs. I believe in order to better our communities, it is important to show and put effort to keep each other safe.

Special thanks to Johnny Winston who helped make the neighborhood and community a better place and I can't wait for the next certification class! ■

This course was paid for and offered through the EMCC Project HOPES Program.



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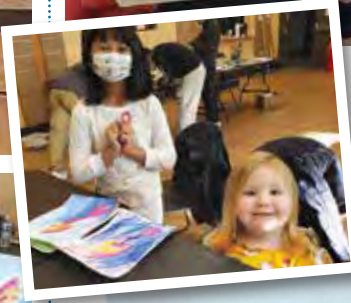
THANK YOU
to American Family for printing Centerpoints!

Learn more about EMCC programs at www.eastmadisoncc.org



Open Arts Studio Sparks Creativity & Smiles

Community members enjoy an afternoon of art in the Open Art Studio at EMCC. A variety of art projects are available to choose from and participants work at their own pace. This program has been well-received. ■



The art program at EMCC is a great place for me to be happy and be able to be creative and express myself and just puts me in a better mood overall. - Catie

Behind on your energy bill? MGE Can help.

We know this is a challenging time for many in our community. It's important all of our customers know Madison Gas & Electric is here to help. Customers who are behind on their MGE bill can work with our customer service representatives to set up a personalized payment agreement and discuss financial assistance that may be available from our community partners. A payment, even if minimal, can help customers who are behind on their bills avoid potential collection activity, late fees or disconnection in the future.

Contact MGE.

Our customer service representatives are available to help. Contact us Monday-Friday between 7am and 7pm. Please call us at 608-252-7144 or 800-245-1125.

Need Financial Assistance?

Financial assistance may be available for your household. Energy Services, Inc. (ESI), is currently taking applications through an online portal at energybenefit.wi.gov or by phone at 800-506-5596.

Visit mge.com/resources to find other community resources.

Behind on your bill? MGE is here to help.



We're here to work with you.

MGE representatives are here to help households and businesses that may need help. If you need assistance or have questions about your account, please visit the Customer Service section of mge.com or call us at (608) 252-7144.

Scams are on the rise. Make sure it's us.

If you receive a call, email or visit that you suspect is fraudulent, please call MGE at (608) 252-7222.

Get free energy-saving advice.

MGE can provide expert advice for how to assess and manage your energy use. Email our Energy Experts at AskExperts@mge.com.

MGE is committed to safe and reliable service.

Lights out, power line down or other emergency? Call us at (608) 252-7111. Smell gas? Leave immediately and call us at (608) 252-1111.



Your community energy company

CUNA Mutual Group Foundation funds the EMCC COVID-19 Support Program

For nearly 20 years, the CUNA Mutual Group Foundation and the East Madison Community Center have combined resources to help develop and support services to best serve families facing financial hardships on Madison's eastside. COVID-19, the pandemic that has changed life as we have known it, continues to challenge many community families. To help families secure their basic needs and other essential resources has required community partners' collaborations to be both diligent and creative. During these difficult times, the silver lining has been the resiliency of the neighborhood families and the service agencies' coordination in providing support. Agencies working together minimize expenses while expanding expertise.

CUNA Mutual Group Foundation recently awarded EMCC the largest donation in the center's 55-year history, \$100,000 for the COVID-19 Support Program. This program helps the center reach out to community members and bridge the Coronavirus's impact with a network of services. In 2021, EMCC will provide an expanded



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curb-side food pantry, hot meals, college prep, job training, housing assistance, wellness programs, neighborhood development, education camp, garden club, internet/computer access, information & referrals, clothing/diaper distributions, art programs, and other family support services.

The CUNA Mutual Group Foundation president, Cedric Ellis, said, "As we continue to focus on building equity in our communities, we recognize the importance of partnering with organizations that can provide holistic support to families in need. The East Madison Community Center is a great example of an organization

that represents, wholly, our Foundation's focus on education, economic stability and emergency aid. We are proud to be a part of the positive community impact the EMCC provides."

Seventy percent of EMCC's modest annual budget is secured through on-going fundraising. EMCC's Executive Director, Tom Moen said, "The Center has amazing staff and all we need to do is generate enough funds to keep these skilled staff members working closely with neighborhood youth and their families. After more than 45 years as Executive Director, I can say with confidence and pride that

the CUNA Mutual Group Foundation is at the top of the list when it comes to their awareness of the issues that face many families in the Madison Community and by generously supporting local non-profits that address those needs."

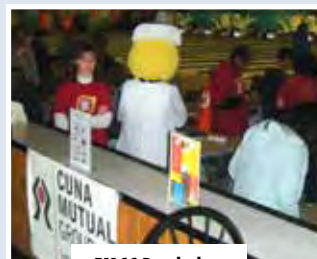
In 2020, EMCC remained open throughout the year and quickly re-tooled services in response to the health risks of COVID-19. EMCC Volunteer PK has been helping in the food pantry since COVID began. When asked how has EMCC helped him through COVID-19, he said, "I look forward to times I can get away from the house and go to the center. The staff helped me with my resume and I got a great job. It's been a total rebirth for me since walking through the center's doors on that day in March to get clothes for a job interview."

With CUNA Mutual Group Foundation's support, EMCC will continue programming to address issues created during the "new normal." Of course, the increase in Center activities in the upcoming year will be guided by recommendations from the Public Health Department. ■

From the desk of EMCC Executive Director Tom Moen

The CUNA Mutual Group has been providing support for important EMCC programs since last century. Beginning with vital contributions in the 1990s to our Bowlathon, the Centers' largest annual fundraiser, and also as the sole sponsor of EMCC's elaborate and very popular annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Five years ago, our longtime partnership expanded significantly. At that time, CUNA

increased their annual donation, thus making The CUNA Mutual Foundation the Center's fourth largest funder by providing financial assistance to help maintain and expand a cross-section of under-funded youth services. We are extremely grateful for both CUNA's financial and moral aid." ■



EMCC Bowlathon

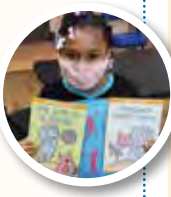


EMCC Volunteer Dinner

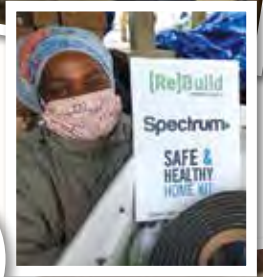


PARTNER SHOUT OUTS

- **Elks Lodge 410**
Covid Relief donation to EMCC
- **Ascendium Education Group** Community partner and volunteers
- **East Madison Monona Rotary, Downtown Rotary and JP Cullen**
Packing boxes for food pantry
- **Spectrum**
Safe and Healthy Home kits and monetary donation to the food pantry
- **Madison Reading Project**
New books and activity kits for children
- **RSVP, Madison Knitters Guild and Community Knitters** Knit items
- **UW Education Social Work Interns**
Youth Programs and general programming
- **Greenlight and Focus on Energy**
LED light bulbs distributed through the food pantry
- **Madison College Mindset for success** Food pantry donations
- **Predolin Foundation and United Way**
Fresh Fruits and Veggies for kids
- **Community Volunteers**
Braving the winter elements to distribute food



- **St. Dennis Congregation**
Toys for kids at Christmas
- **Bob Braier Look2Consulting**
Food Pantry software
- **Community Action Coalition and Second Harvest**
Food for the pantry
- **Allie Christensen Designs**
Social media/graphic design volunteer
- **Sandy Wagener, MTH Design**
Newsletter Design
- **Hy-Vee**
Reusable bag sales
- **Northside News**
Community media partner
- **Capital City Hues**
Community media partner
- **Community Development Authority (CDA)**
On-going partnership to provide service within the CDA housing neighborhood
- **United Way and American Family Insurance** Snack Packs
- **Bleed Shamelessly and the Tampon Taskforce of WI**
Sanitary product kits to distribute
- **Feeding the Youth - Essentials Giveback**
Distribution of household and personal care products



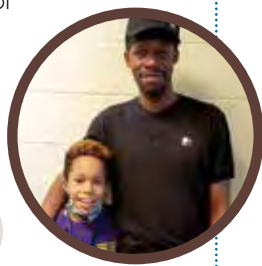
Praise for Project HOPES Program

In partnership with United Way of Dane County, EMCC's Project HOPES provides support, resources and programming designed to increase wellness and self-sufficiency through neighborhood-based services. This program provides opportunities for area residents to gain skills, achieve goals, and strengthen families. The community programs are designed to reflect the interests and needs of individuals in the center's service area. ■



I do feel that my family's and my participation at EMCC has increased our wellness or self-sufficiency. It is very true that during COVID, people's stress levels are increasing dramatically. The art programs in EMCC have brought some sort of refreshment in our life.

We are learning new skills and having social engagement happenings both at the same time. Hence, coming to the Art Studio has been a way for our family to spend time together and strengthen relationships. – Hemanta Katwal



The Center has helped our family get jobs, food and resources. We appreciate everything that the center has done for us.
– Corey Thompson

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 2021 VOLUNTEERS

Youth Volunteers

Dominic Dean, Nate Fitzpatrick, Elaf Ibrahim, Elyas Ibrahim, Basil Ibrahim, Rawan Ibrahim, Antuan Haskins, Iyonna Jones, Cortavion Thompson

Food/Clothing/Household Items Distribution

Ally Becker, John Boyton, Marbeli Bruno, Olivia Dawson, Martha Galston, Rosie Haskins, Talita Maciel, Gwendolyn Pointer, LC Williams, Downtown and East Madison/Monona Rotary Clubs, Madison College, Old National Bank

Program Volunteers

Martha Galston, Peggy Merrick-Bakken, Ascendium Education Group, Madison College Service Learning Academy, UW Badger Volunteers, Community To Canvas

Social Media/Graphic Design

Allie Christensen, Sandy Wagener

Board Members

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

Resource Development

Larry Hamlin, Bunny Lenburg

thanks!



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