



NEIGHBORHOODS USA NEWSLETTER AWARD
FIRST PLACE WINNER!

2021 SUMMER DAY CAMP: The Year of Change-COVID



Things the kids
learned during
Summer Camp:

"Better Manners"
Aviana, Age 12

"Math, Reading and Writing" Lakyia, Age 11

"How to be a better helper"
Gabby, Age 10

"I learned how to be safe during COVID"
Shaunna, Age 12

"I learned how to draw things" Jaiden, Age 8

"Leadership"
Madison, Age 12

"Become a better reader"
Damoni, Age 11

More Summer Camp on Page 3

By John Harmelink,
Summer Camp Director

This year, the summer day camp was not the usual summer camp that we have had for the past 47 years. This year's camp hosted the same kids throughout the eight-week camp. The youth were broken into pods by age and grade. Due to COVID, the camp put safety procedures into effect by requiring everyone in camp to wear a mask and maintain a minimum of 3 feet away between each other. Many of the usual activities such as gym games and field trips

had to be limited for safety reasons. The camp was still able to offer some of the kids' favorite activities such as canoeing, Troy Gardens, golf and swimming at Goodman Pool. The camp did provide a holistic experience for all the children. The camp consisted of academic classes, social learning classes and wellness time.

This year's camp was very challenging for everyone involved, but it proved once and again that the staff and youth at EMCC have the commitment and work ethic to overcome barriers that present themselves. ■

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 55th Anniversary
1966-2021

Blast!
FROM THE PAST

EMCC was launched in 1966 by a dedicated group of moms living in the Truax Housing area. From those very humble beginnings, when the Center was staffed by volunteers and had no budget, EMCC has flourished. Over the past 55 years, EMCC has grown (by design) in a glacial and stable trajectory. Now, in 2021, EMCC has positioned itself as one of Madison's most experienced, effective, and efficient non-profit organizations. We are grateful to all dedicated paid staff, and of course, the 1000's of volunteers that have guided the agency for five and a half decades with a diverse palette of free services that impact area families. Happy Anniversary! ■



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!

..... YOUTH PROFILE



Maleevong Xiong

School: UW-Madison
Grade: Freshman
Favorite School Subject: Science and geology
Years attending the EMCC: 11

Favorite EMCC Program: Alternatives To Violence, physical activity and SPARK

Hobbies: Roblox with kids, volunteering and eating

Favorite Food: Steak with mushroom sauce

Role Models: Elon Musk

What I want to be when I grow up: Self-motivated and driven man that is successful



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.

Summer Camp *(continued from page 1)*



YOUTH News

YOUTH PROFILE



Richard Xiong

School: O'Keefe Middle School

Grade: 8th

Favorite School Subject: Gym

Years attending the EMCC: 8

Favorite EMCC Program: Physical activities & reading

Hobbies: Games, basketball & school

Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo

My name is Erik Xiong and I am 13. What I liked about the 2021 EMCC Summer Day Camp was participating in field trips like swimming at Goodman Pool, Little America, SkyZone, and building the engineer rockets to launch. I also really enjoyed having free time in the computer lab and my most favorite activity was art class with the center. I also liked spending time in the EMCC Community Garden because we picked weeds and planted fruits and vegetables like carrots and tomatoes. I also had a lot of fun picking vegetables to make foods like salad and kale chips. I liked making snacks with my friends and for everyone.



Things the kids learned during Summer Camp:

"Safety and Manners"
Kemaiya, Age 10

"How to make Kale Chips and Pickles" Xiomara, Age 8

2021 Woody Carey Scholarship Recipients

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 as a volunteer on the EMCC Board of Directors for over 25 years and held various Board posi-

tions 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 seven exemplary students with scholarships as a result of this year's awards. ■



Alexandria "Ally" Becker will attend study Nursing at UW-Milwaukee. Ally came to EMCC as a food pantry volunteer and continues to volunteer between her shifts at the VA Hospital. Ally stated on the scholarship application, "My future goals are to get my bachelor's degree in nursing and eventually master's degree so that I can someday become a nursing instructor. Being awarded a scholarship is a heart-warming act that I hope to pay forward in the future by creating my own scholarship to help students obtain their dreams."



Samuel Coleman graduated from East High School and will study Global Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. On the scholarship application, Samuel stated, "I want to learn about as many countries and cultures as possible, for it is my belief that through international and cross-cultural learning we can reach understanding, and through understanding, we can create a more peaceful world."



Elijah Holmes "grew up" at EMCC. He graduated from East High School and is studying Human Development at UW-Madison. On his scholarship application, Elijah stated, "I will be pursuing counseling psychology. I have become a youth counselor at a local youth homeless shelter; which led me to realize my true calling is youth work. I am transitioning to graduate school for human psychology and youth development and am realizing that my impact as a youth worker can make only so much of a difference. This is why my future goal is to become a youth court judge."



Todd Johnson is studying Art Education at UW-Madison. During the pandemic, he was working with Madison students receiving services at EMCC. On his scholarship application, Todd stated, "I want to help the communities become stronger from within. I am overjoyed and honored to receive this scholarship from EMCC. EMCC provides many members of the community with a solid base."



Mack Rimson graduated from East High School and also "grew up" at EMCC. Mack will be studying Carpentry at Madison College. On his scholarship application, Mack stated, "I want to become a carpenter and do construction because it is something that I have been wanting to do since the start of middle school. I want to learn everything possible about construction because it is my dream job to learn construction. In the future, I want to build my dream house with my family."



Lilly Soderberg came to EMCC through the UW-Madison Social Work Program as an intern. She is attending UW-Madison Graduate School for her Master's in Social Work. On her scholarship application, she stated, "I will continue to pursue my Social Work in Education licensing in hopes to work with children much like the ones that come to the center. I want to learn more about engaging with parents/guardians of kids and hope to have further experiences working with the family unit as a whole."



Pau Xiong graduated from East High School and is studying social work at UW-Madison. Pau also "grew up" at EMCC and is a Youth Program Worker at EMCC. On her scholarship application, she stated, "With the support of my workplace, the East Madison Community Center, I have met and made connections with many UW-Madison graduate students who are working towards their goals of getting their Master of Social Work. Hearing their goals and experiences were similar to mine encouraged me even more to take steps in the path of social work. My next major goal is to earn an art studio certificate to perhaps one day use both awards to expose families to art therapy and help support families whenever and wherever they need."



Congrats!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



ASCENDIUM EDUCATION GROUP

Employees spent the day cleaning and organizing the kids' program education and art supply closets, steaming and hanging new clothes in the First Impression Closet, packing food for the pantry and organizing the multipurpose room.



CDA JOB FAIR

A new program with CDA provides a job and resource fair on the second Tuesday of each month during food pantry.



EXACT SCIENCES

Employees spent the day deep cleaning both kitchens and program rooms in preparation for summer camp.



MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY DREAM BUS

The children of EMCC get excited when the Dream Bus pulls up. They are able to check out books to enjoy at home.



ASSOCIATED BANK & CDA

Following the Financial Fitness Fair at EMCC this past summer, Associated Bank and CDA have joined EMCC to offer budgeting and money management workshops each month. The participants are now called the "Financial Fitness Team!"

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Ericka Brown

Hello Truax community! My name is Ericka Brown and I am honored to continue to serve on the EMCC board. Madison is home for my wife, three kids and 2 grandkids and I.

I currently work at East High School as the Restorative Justice Coach and prior to this I worked at Hawthorne Elementary Community School for 13 years as the after school director and Community Resource Coordinator.

On my days of relaxing I love grilling anytime and in any weather. I love anything that has to do with basketball.

Again, thank you and I look forward to another great year with EMCC! ■



TNT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The weekly Outdoor Fun Zone offers activities for young children and their families.

Madison Out-of-School Time (MOST) Recognizes Outstanding Youth Workers

In Madison, 16,000 children rely on Out-of-School Time organizations and the thousands of people who work for them. Although Out-of-School Time staff provide essential services to the Madison community they do not always get the recognition they deserve, particularly after an incredibly challenging year, where they were often on the front-lines of the pandemic supporting young people and families. That is why MOST is recognizing their contributions to making our city better with \$500 awards.

Award winners were nominated by their peers with final selections made by local high school students among dozens of strong nominees. EMCC had three staff members nominated: John Harmelink, Pau Xiong and Eric Peters. Eleven nominees were recognized at an awards ceremony on August 25, 2021. Pau and John were selected as part of the honored group.

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Pau Xiong with MMSD Superintendent Carlton D. Jenkins, Ph. D.



John Harmelink, EMCC Youth Program Director

Pau Xiong grew up at the East Madison Community Center (EMCC) and was recognized as EMCC's youth "Volunteer of the Year" when she was 12. Now as a staff member there, she is passionate, wise-beyond-her-years, hardworking, patient, bi-lingual, and excels at problem-solving. Pau also teaches the children to be self-sufficient in resolving their issues and making better decisions.

John Harmelink has been the East Madison Community Center's (EMCC) Youth Program Director since 1991. John has recruited, trained, and supervised 100's of paid, volunteer, work-study, and college interns to serve as center youth workers. Because of John's leadership, EMCC has received dozens of national, state, and local awards for effective, innovative programs. During the pandemic John helped the Center mobilize over \$20,000 to improve air circulation and purchase every type of Personal Protective supply imaginable. EMCC never experienced a COVID breakout.

Pau and John join Nate Savado of EMCC who won this award in 2019. ■

EMCC Newsletter Receives Award

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) recognizes the work being done in neighborhoods across the United States with a variety of award categories:



Neighborhood of the Year, Best Neighborhood Program, Neighborhood Newsletter Competition, & Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods. Awards were announced at the NUSA 2021 conference held in Fort Worth, TX in May.

The Neighborhood Newsletter Competition rewards excellence in community newsletters and is given in two categories: Print Format Newsletters and Electronic Format Newsletters.

Neighborhood Newsletter award entries were evaluated by a panel of judges. They were evaluated individually and awarded points based on criteria that included layout, consistency, content, relevance, and overall appearance. The EMCC CenterPoints received First Place in the Non-profit organization or agency/print category.

CenterPoints is made possible through an amazing group of EMCC community partners and we share this award with them. Program staff and volunteers provide the written content and photos that tell the EMCC story each quarter. Graphic Designer Sandy Wagener of MTH Design donates her time and talents to turn EMCC's content into an amazing work of art. American Family Insurance donates a portion of the printing costs and their talented printing team creates the fabulous, glossy newsletter. Last but not least, thanks to First Class Mailers, Inc. for mailing services. ■



American Family Printing Shop Staff (top) and Representatives



Sandy Wagener, Graphic Designer

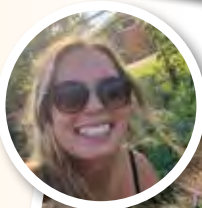
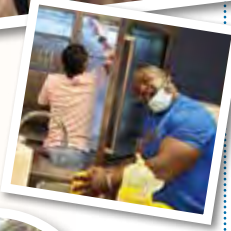
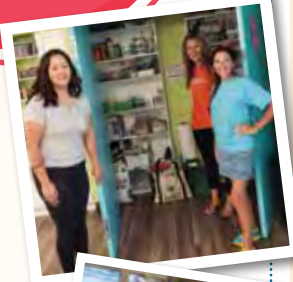


CenterPoints is distributed quarterly.
Email: info@eastmadisoncc.org
 to be added to the mailing list today!

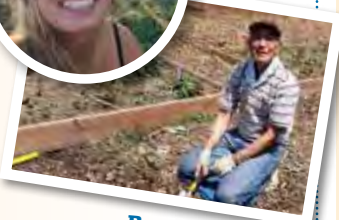


PARTNER SHOUT-OUTS

- **Ascendium**
Facility cleaning and organizing
- **Exact Sciences**
Facility cleaning and organizing
- **Cynthia Walton-Jackson**
Front office and organizing tasks
- **Kwik Trip/State Farm**
Coupons for milk
- **Bryttany Dove & Renee Robinson of CDA**
Job Fair and Financial Fitness Program partners
- **Second Harvest Food Bank**
Food pantry support and fresh produce/dairy for children
- **Community Action Coalition**
Food pantry program partner
- **Truax Neighborhood Association**
Neighborhood program partner
- **Barry Kita**
Children's Garden Volunteer
- **Kaylee Geier**
Children's Garden Volunteer



Kaylee



Barry

- **American Family**
Newsletter printing and Summerfest Tickets
- **Northside Press**
Communications Partner
- **Group Health Cooperative**
Diabetes Nutrition Program
- **Associated Bank and Old National Bank**
Financial Fitness Program
- **DEMCO** Education supplies
- **MSCR Pontoon Boat Staff**
Family and youth pontoon boat ride staff
- **Sue Harmelink and Slipstream**
Desks for EMCC offices
- **Ken Johnson and Madison Magazine**
Literacy Magazines for children and adults
- **Kari Kenefick** Craft supplies
- **Pat Hadden** Truax Neighborhood Association partner
- **Troy Gardens**
Summer Camp Outdoor Education and Gardening programs
- **First Tee**
Children's program partner
- **Madison Public Library**
Bubble program
- **Phenomenal NeBo**
Multicultural presentation



Thank You!

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.



EMCC is an All of Us Research Program site

Too often, health care is one size fits all. Treatments meant for the "average" patient may not work well for individual people. Health care providers may find it difficult to coordinate care among specialists or to access all of a patient's health information. Researchers may spend lots of time and resources creating new databases for every study. All of Us is working to improve health care through research. Unlike research studies that focus on one disease or group of people, All of Us is building a diverse database that can inform thousands of studies on a variety of health conditions.

- This creates more opportunities to:**
- Know the risk factors for certain diseases
 - Figure out which treatments work best for people of different backgrounds
 - Connect people with the right clinical studies for their needs
 - Learn how technologies can help us take steps to be healthier

All of Us is part of a new era in which researchers, health care providers, technology experts, community partners, and the public work together to develop individualized health care. For more information go to: allofus.nih.gov



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 2021 VOLUNTEERS

Youth Volunteers

Dominic Dean, Avery Francis, Antuan Graves-Haskings, Nate Fitzpatrick, Antuan Haskins, Elijah Smith, Eric Xiong, James Xiong

Food/Clothing/Household Items Distribution

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

Program Volunteers

Martha Galston, Kaylee Geier, Tanya Gruter, Perez Kirkpatrick, Ascendium Education Group, Community2Canvas, Exact Sciences, Madison College Service Learning Academy

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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