



MADISON MATTERS



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This February, Madison is thrilled to join Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide in celebrating Black History Month. Across our Clubhouses, we're embracing this opportunity to educate, inspire and honor the incredible contributions and innovations of Black people and communities throughout history.

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BUILDING A LIFELONG LEGACY

Longtime Madison friend John Starr shares his story

This February, we're excited to share a little bit of a Madison love story in celebration of Valentine's Day. Longtime Madison friend and Chairperson of the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club Foundation John Starr first became acquainted with Madison's mission in the late 1970s.

"I was introduced to Madison by a friend who took me over to the 29th Street Clubhouse for a visit, and I got hooked," John said. "I really appreciated the mission of Madison — it reminded me a lot of my youth growing up in Atlanta. While I didn't go to a Boys & Girls Club, I did go to a really fabulous recreation center. So, Madison felt like I was coming home, and it gave me a sense of purpose."

Soon after, John joined Madison's Youth Council (now Madison Council) and later the Board of Trustees in 1987. It was at a Youth Council cocktail event that John met his wife and lifelong sweetheart, Elizabeth. Introduced by a mutual friend, the two hit it off and have been inseparable since, supporting many causes in addition to Madison along the way.

Serving such an impressive tenure, John credits Madison's mission in maintaining his support. "A lot of us sit around complaining about what's wrong in the world. Madison tries to take care of what's right in the world. Youth need a leg up, and Madison does that. It's kept me involved for over 40 years. It's not my only philanthropic outlet, but it's one that's kept my attention for a long time."

In thinking about the future, John joined Madison's Legacy Society by deciding to designate Madison as a beneficiary in his life insurance policy. He shared that it was a very convenient and easy way to make a planned gift. Other ways to make a legacy gift include adding Madison to your will, establishing a charitable trust, bequests and more.

To those considering including Madison in a planned gift, John shared his advice in getting started. "Sit down and talk with your spouse or significant other and tell them what Madison means to you. If Madison is really important to you, let them know what leaving a legacy for the young boys and girls in New York City means to you, and then it becomes easy. Talk to your financial advisor about what it is you want to do and how best, with regard to your own circumstances, to do it."

Planned gifts play a crucial role in Madison's long-term success as they allow us to better plan for the future as an organization. And donors find them helpful given the



flexibility to tailor their contributions to align with their personal values and philanthropic goals.

“Madison is 140 years old this year, and I want Madison to be involved in saving the lives of kids 140 years from now,” John said. “And if there’s any major reason for me giving money at this point in my life, it’s that I think it’s imperative that the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club of this world be around 140 years from now. Because kids are going to need it more than ever.”



John Starr (center) at the 2009 Christmas Tree Ball with daughter Susie Starr (right) and Persis Elavia.

We are immensely grateful for the generosity of individuals like John who have chosen to support Madison through planned giving. Their contributions have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless young people, inspiring hope, resiliency and creating opportunity. They continue to weave a lasting legacy. We leave you with some wise words from our longtime friend John.

“Save one kid, and you save the world. And I think that that’s how you have to look at Madison. The quality of its programs and what it yields to that one child is an amazing story.”



Interested in learning more? Visit Madison’s [planned giving page here](#), view our [Madison Legacy Society brochure here](#) or contact Anna Phewa at aphewa@madisonsquarefoundation.org.



At the 2021 Fore the Kids Golf Tournament, from left, Mike Pikiel, John Starr, Susie Starr and David Dunn.



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Celebrating Black History Month: Honoring Legacies, Inspiring Futures

As we delve into the stories of Black leaders, we witness the power of representation and its impact on our young people. By learning about the accomplishments of those who came before them, our Club members are inspired to reach for the stars.

From February 1 to Leap Day, members were rehearsing their butts off! Creative projects led by staff and members culminated in spectacular performances celebrating Black history. From playwriting and acting to choreography, traditional African dance and music, and spoken word, our youth and staff lead the way into a more inclusive future, retelling history through the power of art and creativity.

To make Black history come alive, staff members dressed up as important Black leaders and icons. From Maya Angelou to Marcus Mosiah Garvey, they presented their heroes' stories to our young members, teaching them about their achievements and important roles in U.S. and global history.

Explorers and Juniors played a special Clubhouse version of Jeopardy: Black History Month. With prompts including: "He was the home run king (estimated 962 home runs) and catcher who never made it to the MLB" and "She started a space camp for children after being the first African American female to fly in space," the game was an exciting way to learn about the legacy of important individuals. ***And, if you don't know the answer to these prompts or the names listed above, we encourage you to do some research to better educate yourself on the countless individuals and groups who fought and continue to fight for equality. By doing so, you'll join us in supporting our Clubhouse members through the immense power of knowledge and personal empowerment.*



Explorers work together to answer Black History Month Jeopardy questions.



Members perform songs, spoken word and more in the music studios celebrating Black History Month.



Over in the music studios, spoken word artists collaborated with members on guitar, bass, drums and keyboard. Everyone took their chance at the microphone, members and staff alike, telling their stories and truths to the beat.



"Love is within you," said Ms. Chery, Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse Teen Campus Director. "When all this time, you need to love yourself. To discover the parts that make you unapologetically yourself, you need to learn to love yourself. To find a hidden beauty that is within you, you need to learn to love yourself. To discover those parts that others have always admired, but you never noticed, you need to learn to love yourself. It's never too late to fall in love. Be brave. Embrace yourself. Love yourself. Cherish yourself. Fall in love with yourself because the world needs to know how magic you are."

Also in the studios, teens picked artists from the last 100 years of Black music history to research. They learned about their lives, art and legacy, and then used their own creativity to perform poetry, short stories and music interweaving their personalities with that of true music legends.

With 52% of Madison's members identifying as Black or African American, we are especially proud to celebrate the future Black leaders, innovators, teachers, artists and advocates who walk through our doors every day. We are committed to providing them with the support, resources and opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.

While we celebrate the progress we've made, we also recognize that there is still work to be done when it comes to racial equity and inclusion. Through our leadership programs, community service initiatives and platforms for elevating their voices on critical issues, young people at Madison are inspired to build a world where every individual can discover their calling and thrive.

We invite you to join us this month and every month as we honor Black history and celebrate the incredible achievements of Black, Brown and Indigenous individuals and communities in New York City and beyond. Together, with your support, we will continue to create a future where every young person is empowered to stand up for themselves and to reach their full potential.



Junior members perform "Lift Every Voice" at the showcase.

FEBRUARY
2024



MADISON SQUARE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



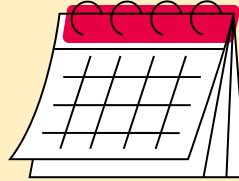
Madison Council's 5th Annual
MARDI GRAS
MAD-SQUERADE
3-Hour Open Bar & Hors D'oeuvres

March 1 | 8:00 PM
Tanner Smith's
204 W 55th St, New York, NY

Madison Council Mardi Gras
March 1, 2024

Youth of the Year
May 15, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS



*Click invites
to register!*



**SAVE THE
DATE**

MAY 15
2024

PIER SIXTY, CHELSEA PIERS



MADISON SQUARE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
FOUNDATION

THE 11TH ANNUAL
**YOUTH OF THE YEAR
DINNER**

LEAVE A LEGACY



**Click [here](#) to
learn more!**



Interested in learning more about how to make a lasting impact in the lives of children?

Contact Anna Phewa, senior director of individual donor partnerships of Madison Square Boys & Girls Club Foundation, at aphewa@madisonsquarefoundation.org.

