



MADISON MATTERS



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SPREADING JOY & THANKS

This Thanksgiving, because of your support, we were able to help out our Clubhouse families and communities by giving away 700 turkeys in the Bronx and Brooklyn! Community members were welcomed into the Clubhouse to pick up turkeys and other Thanksgiving goods ahead of the holiday to

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CHRISTMAS TREE BALL



Celebrating 2023 and welcoming the holiday season

Friday, December 1 was certainly an extra special evening as we celebrated the 57th Christmas Tree Ball! Madison alumni, members, staff, supporters and friends all joined together to ring in the holiday season and helped raise over \$1 million, which is already being put to work providing critical mentorship, academic and social-emotional support, and safe and warm spaces this winter and beyond.

We were thrilled to welcome back Madison alum Huchela DelaCruz to kick off the evening with her powerful voice, performing *Jingle Bell Rock* and *Someday at Christmas*. Our emcees, alumni Perla Flores and Joshua Lebrun, kept the night moving, sharing how the Club was fundamental in their successes before, during and after college. Then, the dance floor was filled with some of our youngest members who showed off their ballet skills learned at the Clubhouse in Misty Copeland's *Be Bold* dance program. Next, special guest speaker and alum Nahomi Zambrano Ruiz shared her story and the impact the Clubhouse had on her, closing with, *"none of this would have been possible without the support system and the opportunities that the Smilow Clubhouse provided me."*





A group of our teen members closed the program, performing a fabulous rendition of This Christmas, by Donnie Hathaway. For all four musicians, it was their first time performing for a large audience, and while nerves were high, bassist Nick S. summed up the group's excitement saying, *"this is the first time I've ever performed for a big crowd. I have performed in front of the Grimm Clubhouse, but this is next level."*

All four teen members make music in their respective Clubhouses' Notes for Notes Studios and spoke about the importance of music in their lives.

"I make music because it's something I'm passionate about," vocalist Song S.H. said. *"It's a way for me to express myself, to tell people how I feel just in words and rhymes and beats."*

"Music has been a part of my life since I was a little kid," said drummer and 2023 Youth of the Year Prince Elijah W.G. *"Everyone in my family is a musician – my brothers are drummers, my mom's a singer-songwriter, my dad – who really had the most significance on music to me – he played piano, drums and guitar."*

"Music is to me a way to express myself," guitarist Sebastian P. shared. *"And that's the reason why I make it because I love expressing myself and that's the best way I know how to do it."*

Samario Hardy, music teacher and studio manager at the John E. Grimm III Clubhouse, explained that each youth musician is from a different Madison Clubhouse, covering the Bronx, Brooklyn and Harlem.

"It's kind of like a supergroup. Each of them came from a different Clubhouse and each has different skills."

Speaking to Prince Elijah and Sebastian, Samario emphasized their musical talent, saying, *"both of you guys, I've been listening to all day and I envy you. At your age, if I could play at that skill level – that's just amazing."*

We are so proud of our youth musicians, alumni and ballet dancers for their commitment to bettering themselves and pursuing their passions in and outside of the Club. Thanks to you, our amazing network of donors, partners and friends, we are able to provide all our members with access to music, art and dance and encourage them to follow their dreams. A special shout out to Garden of Dreams Foundation for their generous support of Madison's Notes for Notes Studios and programming.





We also send a special thanks to our Christmas Tree Ball Committee and to our Gold Sponsors: **Hearst, Stavros Niarchos Foundation** and **Mr. & Mrs. Victor F. Ganzi & The Ganzi Family**, for their support.

At the event, we were excited to announce that Madison will be ringing in 140 years of service in 2024, celebrating a legacy of uplifting and empowering youth in NYC. We send our deepest thanks to all of you for your incredible support and wish all of you the happiest of holidays. And as Huchela sang, 2024 will continue to see your support being put to work so that ...

“Someday at Christmas we’ll see a land, With no hungry children, no empty hand, One happy morning people will share, Our world where people care.”





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2023 MADISON HIGHLIGHTS



Learn about all you made possible in 2023!

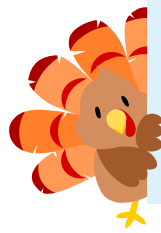
Every day at Madison, we are inspired by the talent, curiosity and determination of our members. Whether they are working hard to understand fractions or perfecting their 3-point shot, they are learning patience and the importance of practice. We are delighted to share with you some of the key takeaways from 2023 that your support made possible.

2023 marks an impactful year for Madison Square Boys & Girls Club, emphasizing strong connections, innovative programming and holistic youth development. Personal connection and support matter, and we believe that the relationships our members make are what make the Club environment a second home and the community a family. Our sincerest gratitude is extended to you, our partners, for your unwavering dedication to our mission and generous support that is crucial to the sustainability of our programs. Together, we provide a transformative, supportive space for all members to flourish.

In 2023, we celebrate our membership with **3,060 members**, including 463 Explorers, 422 Juniors, and 2,175 teens enrolled at Madison. We additionally served **73** young adults with our College Success Initiative and **549** youth during our Summer Youth Employment Program.

·Recognizing persistent food hardship in our communities, Madison continued to organize food pantry events in our Clubhouses. We hosted over 100 food drives, distributed thousands of bags of food (nearly 200,000 pounds), and supported hundreds of families from Madison and our wider community. We partnered with Food Bank New York and City Harvest to provide families with fresh produce and healthy pantry items at least once a month at each Club.

·In 2023, Madison provided abundant opportunities for youth to explore the arts, from music and dance to fine arts and photography. These initiatives thrived through partnerships with Notes for Notes and the Misty Copeland Foundation, fostering vibrant artistic talent in music and ballet. Madison's music studios witnessed remarkable creativity, motivation and charisma in its members. Throughout the year, staff supported participants, helping them create original songs, master instruments and engage in podcast production and talent showcases. The Clubs also hosted events and performances, with Madison's modern dance group, Destined 2 Dance, earning a spot at Radio City Music Hall through the Garden of Dreams Foundation. Additionally, our Elbaum Family Clubhouse in Brooklyn offered its first summer of programming, offering courses in photography, podcasting, sculpture and poetry.



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Spreading Joy & Thanks

ensure that no one went without festive food to share with friends and family.

“Food insecurity has grown, especially since the pandemic, and there are many people who will not have the means to celebrate this holiday of giving thanks with a special meal, so we’re providing that,” said Armand Paganelli, Member of the Bronx Advisory Board.

In New York City, poverty and food insecurity rates surpass the national averages. In 2022, 96% of Madison’s members qualified for free lunch. And, according to Feeding America, 1 in 10 New Yorkers (1,882,580 people) struggle with hunger, **596,060 of them being children.**

These numbers emphasize the importance of Madison’s work to build a more equitable future for all NYC youth and show that there is still much to be done.

“We have volunteers at Clubhouses feeding families,” said Philip Maltaghati, Member of the Bronx Advisory Board. “It’s amazing to watch the good deeds that the Madison staff does every day and the volunteers who support them as well as the Board Members who help by contributing the money needed to fund these operations.”

We are honored to have the opportunity to provide our members and their families with food around the holidays and throughout the year. It is thanks to you, our generous Madison family, that we can continue to provide our Madison communities with urgently needed supplies and to respond to their needs all year round.





Happy Holidays!

HELP MAKE THE HOLIDAYS WARM FOR NYC KIDS

The holiday season is upon us — the city is decked out in twinkling lights and markets filled with gifts for all — but not everyone is feeling the holiday spirit. Kids and teens across NYC miss out on the festive fun every year, focused on staying warm and finding safe spaces to just be kids.

You can make a difference this winter.

Help NYC kids and teens find the joy this holiday season and support the Clubhouse. Whether you choose to give cash, stock, cryptocurrency or donate through your DAF, you can make an immediate positive impact for a child. Because of kind people like you, our Clubhouses stand as beacons of hope where curiosity comes alive, but we can't do it without you!

Join our amazing community of supporters **before December 31** to show NYC kids that you believe in them this holiday season.



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