



MADISON MATTERS



IN THIS ISSUE

- MENTORSHIP
- MADISON ALUM SHARES HIS STORY
- HONORING MLK DAY
- HOLIDAY WRAPUP

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH



January is National Mentor Month, and we at Madison feel so lucky to see the positive impact that mentors can have on the lives of children and teens every day. In our clubhouses, we know that there are positive outcomes for both mentors and mentees, and we are grateful for all that we can learn from the youngest members to our alumni.

Continued on p. 3





"MADISON MADE ME"



Madison alum Ernest Businelli on giving back

Like many Madison alumni, Ernest, who joined Madison's former 29th Street Clubhouse at age 8 or 9, said the Club immediately became a second home for him. Participating in any activity he could, Ernest was a member of the stamp club, photography club and radio club. He learned to swim at the Clubhouse, and he was the projectionist for movies on Friday and Saturday nights. Remembering fondly the Clubhouse and the staff who set him on the path to success, Ernest said, "Madison made me."

"I was always welcomed back to the Club in the in-between," he said, mentioning the many paid jobs he held around the Club as a teen and young adult. Ernest credits the skills he learned at the Club with finding a successful career as a Peace Corps geologist in Ghana and as an industrial ceramic production supervisor and journeyman electrician with several companies. He feels that the breadth of opportunities and exposure to a wide range of subjects at the Club allowed him to find the career and life path he was truly passionate about.

To provide others with the same opportunities he was given, Ernest chooses to donate to Madison's mission every year.

Coming full circle on Madison's core pillar of Good Character and Citizenship, Ernest and his wife, Marilyn, give annually through their IRA through qualified charitable donations, or QCDs. IRA owners must be age 70 1/2 or older to make a tax-free charitable contribution. Those who meet the age requirement can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from an IRA to an eligible charity without paying income tax on the transaction.

"It's a win-win," Marilyn shared. "Madison gets more money, and we don't have to pay taxes on the funds we give."

Ernest and Marilyn, like many of our supporters, believe that children are our future and in the importance of giving back. Ernest emphasized the importance of supporting the institutions that supported him, saying that "someone gave so I could be there, and I want to make sure kids continue to have those opportunities."



Members of the Glee Club at Madison's former 29th Street Clubhouse in the 1950s.

To learn about ways to create your legacy, click [HERE](#).



Continued from p. 1

January is National Mentoring Month

At Madison, mentorship is all-encompassing because strong, positive relationships among kids, teens and adults are all about learning and helping others when you can. The Club environment is one of support and teamwork, teaching members to always do their best and to ask for help when needed.

Kiera, a teen member at the Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse, shared what the Club has meant to her. “The Club is an outlet for me where I can express myself,” she said. “I’m a pretty socially anxious person, especially after the pandemic. But I’m able to let out my feelings and frustrations here, and it makes me feel better about everything. And the staff are ready to explain everything at the Club. They truly accommodate all the kids here – no matter what.”



Mentorship is found front and center among our three core pillars. When it comes to academic success, mentorship may look like helping a member through a tough math problem or encouraging them to read and write throughout summer break to fight learning loss. Or, in Kiera’s case, the Club staff have recently helped her apply to college, writing recommendation letters and helping her figure out what schools best fit her interests. To promote good character and citizenship, mentorship may be sharing stories of personal growth and encouraging members to work on projects that positively impact their community. To encourage healthy lifestyles and choices, mentorship is coaching members through nutrition and helping them build positive relationships with food and exercise.

Mentorship may also mean just being there for someone else when they need a shoulder to cry on or someone to talk to. By having supportive adults who are in their corner, members are reminded every day that they matter and that they have people looking out for them. As Mr. S, music educator at the John E. Grimm III Clubhouse, explained, many members are immigrants, so having caring adults who have gone through similar life experiences is important in feeling safe and heard. “Oftentimes, kids don’t get listened to; they get told,” he said. Mr. S sees the music studio and the Club as a safe space where kids and teens can have productive discussions and can reach out when they need support. And these positive, uplifting relationships can mean everything to a child. At the Club, we encourage our members to share their frustrations, share their hopes and aspirations, so that we can help them lead successful and happy lives and dream their biggest dreams.



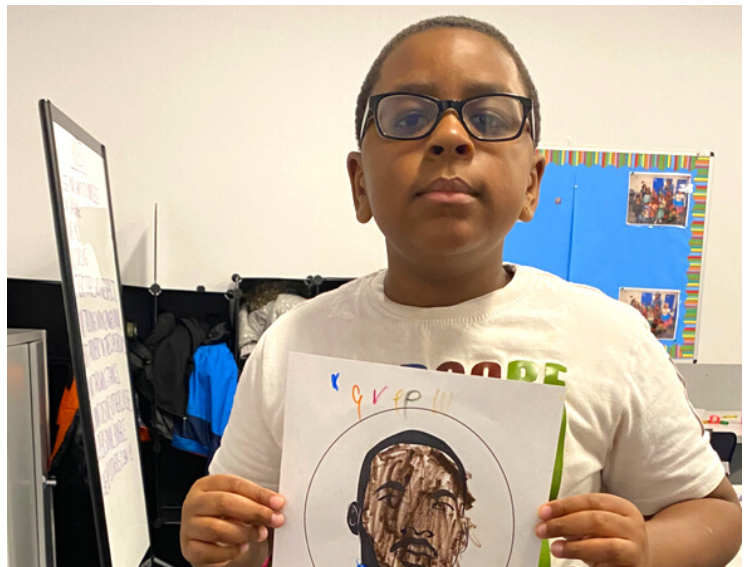
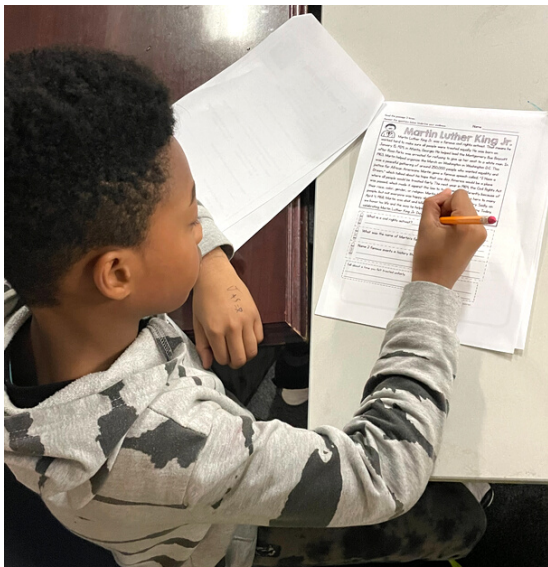
A DAY OF SERVICE

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Legacy



In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., members at the Clubs participated in a variety of activities. With the goals of emphasizing the difference one person can make and understanding the importance of good character, members of all ages were encouraged to consider the importance of Dr. King's legacy. Projects ranged from writing an original poem or essay about how Dr. King's work remains relevant today to completing local community service projects.

Also spotlighting our priority outcome, Good Character and Citizenship, members were encouraged to take part in "New Year New Me" programming. Centered on making good decisions — be it around school and academic success, being a better sibling or community member or actively making healthier choices — members were asked to answer the questions: What change do I want to make in 2023? Why do I want to make this change? And how will I meet this goal?



"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

JANUARY
2023



MADISON SQUARE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

HOLIDAY WRAP-UP

Making our kids' holidays merry and bright!

In celebration of the holidays and another successful year of programming, Madison held year-end celebrations at all six Clubhouses.

Welcoming members and their families, the festivities featured dance team and musical performances, talent shows, hot chocolate stations, competitions and raffles, photos with Santa and giveaways of books, hats, gloves, pajamas and STEM kits. Madison's members were greeted by Santa and each given a gift.



The generosity continued thanks to our amazing partners. CC and Amber Sabathia and the **PitCCh In Foundation** welcomed 110 members to the Nickelodeon Universe Theme Park at the American Dream Mall for a gift giveaway including coats, sneakers, shirts, hoodies, socks and gift cards. The **New York Yankees** hosted a winter wonderland with toys and hot cocoa. And **EY** and **Deloitte** participated in our online holiday gift-giving campaign, providing members with curated gifts to meet their interests and talents and make their holidays extra special!

Honoring the season of giving, Madison also held a series of food pantries, turkey drives, an adopt-a-family drive and a coat drive — supported by Madison's **Brooklyn** and **Bronx Advisory Boards**, **Corbin Capital** and **American Express** — to help make the holidays extra warm for members and their communities.

The end of the year also saw a lot of exciting programming for teens. At our Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse, teens launched their first podcast. Featuring songs and poems by members, the podcast is a creative space where teens can share stories from around the Club and discuss topics from sports to music, to weather to motivational ideas and other interests.



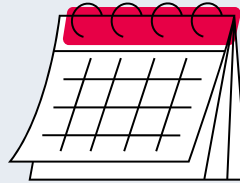
The Clubhouse also hosted a teen forum focused on bringing teen members and teens from the local community together to discuss a wide range of pertinent topics including gun violence, self-esteem and even how to tie a tie. Developed as a space to learn and grow, the forum aligns strongly with Madison's focus on good character and citizenship. The forum emphasized the importance of being an active member of your community and sharing concerns and dreams for the place you call home. With over 50 participants, the event was able to raffle off close to \$2,000 in prizes and lasted about four hours. Teens left feeling heard, well-informed and empowered.

JANUARY
2023



MADISON SQUARE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

UPCOMING EVENTS



*Click invites
to register!*

MADISON COUNCIL'S 4TH ANNUAL

MARDI GRAS MAD-SQUERADE

MARCH 3, 2023 | 8:00 - 11:00 P.M.
TANNER SMITH'S, 204 WEST 55TH STREET




3-HOUR OPEN BAR
&
HORS D'OEUVRES

Mardi Gras MAD-squerade
March 3, 2023

Youth of the Year
May 17, 2023

SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 | 6 P.M.
PIER SIXTY | CHELSEA PIERS



MADISON SQUARE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
FOUNDATION

YOUTH OF THE YEAR

CHAMPION OF YOUTH HONOREES:
KERRY CHANDLER
CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER OF BOMBAS
MANDELL CRAWLEY
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER OF
MORGAN STANLEY
WAYNE HEWETT
MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS: HOME DEPOT,
WELLS FARGO AND UPS

#MADISONBGCLUB
#MADISONYOY

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.