

Center

Points

VOLUME 18/ISSUE 1

SPRING 2009

Calling All Volunteers...

The East Madison Community Center has a long history of utilizing community volunteers to strengthen programs and to help the Center to achieve its mission. But it wasn't until recently that EMCC expanded and formalized its volunteer services with the support of funds from United Way of Dane County. The RING Program (Residents Involved in Neighborhood Growth) was designed to encourage and support individuals, especially in the EMCC service area, to take a stake in building a stronger, more inclusive neighborhood. At the same time, this benefits each volunteer through personal and professional capacity development.

Why do I volunteer At EMCC?

"EMCC is in my neighborhood and I care for people I see everyday."

"Enjoy being part of an organization with good energy that is well run and has a positive impact on so many."

"I live in the community so why would I volunteer anywhere else?"

"The community has been a blessing to me and I want to give back whatever I can."

"I know what it is to be without."



Beatrice Burnell

The RING

Program

targets neighborhood residents to participate in this volunteer enrichment service. Volunteers will be recruited, interviewed, screened, scheduled, trained and placed in a community program that matches their interests, skills and availability. Program opportunities include children and youth services such as Learning Center, Youth Development nights, Alternatives to Violence and the Positive Options Program.



Jill Olson from U.S. Cellular



Qiana Holmes and Larry Hamlin - Bowl-A-Thon

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Check EMCC's website at www.eastmadisoncc.org

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Why do I volunteer in the community?

"To give back to the community and meet new people"

"Thankful to be part of a giving community and want to give back with my time"

"You only get out of your community what you put into it"

"To give back how I was helped in the past"

"Enjoy helping people"

Other volunteer options include Food Pantry/Clothing Distribution, Women's Group, Computer Lab, Special Events, Field Trips, Neighborhood Associations, the EMCC Board and many other activities.

The East Madison Community Center was

Herb Paaren – Kids Handball lesson



Blues picnic volunteers – (left to right) Sherri Dietzman, Sharon Dietzman, Betsy Setzer

MATC Baking Club – Holiday Cookie Decorating

founded by a local group of volunteers called the Wright St. Betterment Association back in 1966. Since that time, volunteers have played a key role in the development and success of EMCC. Won't you join us in helping build a stronger community? Just a few hours a week can make a big difference for you and the 1000's of program participants the Center serves each year. ■



Food pantry volunteers – (left to right) Mylas Sparks, Pam Cook, Joan Kuehn and Pat Haak.



Gary Ford – Face painting for Halloween party

ADULT BASKETBALL PROGRAM



The EMCC has started an adult basketball program that meets on Tuesday nights from 8pm to 9:30pm and Sunday 3pm to 5pm for ages 18+ and also on Wednesday from 8pm to 9:30pm

for ages 30+. The cost is \$2 per session. If you are interested please contact Mike or John at 608-249-0861. ■

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American Family Insurance is pleased to help underwrite East Madison Community Center's newsletter.

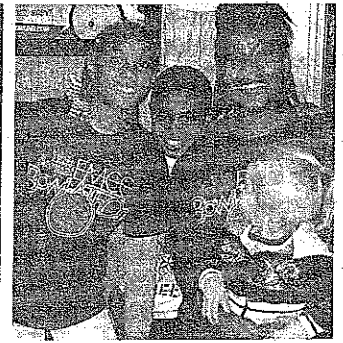
Thank you to American Family for printing Centerpoints!

12th Annual EMCC Bowl-A-Thon

NOV. 8 2008

The 12th Annual EMCC Bowl-A-Thon provided lots of fun and FUNDS for the Center. \$14,000 was raised this year. Thanks to all the participants and volunteers for another successful event!

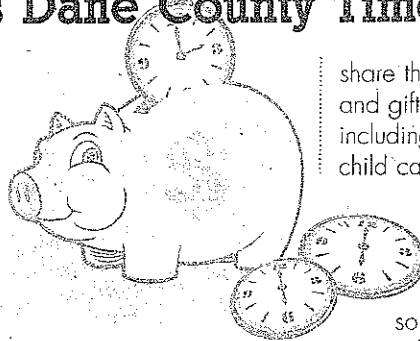
The EMCC Bowl-A-Thon Strikes Again!



EMCC Hosts Dane County Timebank Open House

By Gary Messinger
Neighbor-To-Neighbor Coordinator
Dane County Timebank

On Sunday February 8th, the Dane County Timebank held an open house event at the East Madison Community Center. It was a fun filled afternoon filled with lots of activities. The Timebank had many members there to share their skills and talents. The activities included live music, dance, basketball, Wii dance revolution, astrology education,



Tai Chi, kids arts and crafts, a game room, and computer help. We even signed up 7 new members that afternoon! We're very grateful to the community

center for being such an active partner with the Timebank.

The Timebank is a community of members who

share their time, skills, and gifts with each other, including such things as child care, music lessons, home repair, transportation, pet care, massage, and so much more! For every hour you help someone else you earn one

timedollar, which you can then spend getting something you'd like from another member.

As of March 17th, the Timebank has office hours at the East Side Community Center on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3pm. Please stop by to learn more!



For more information go to:
<http://danecountytimebank.org>
Or Call 608-663-0400

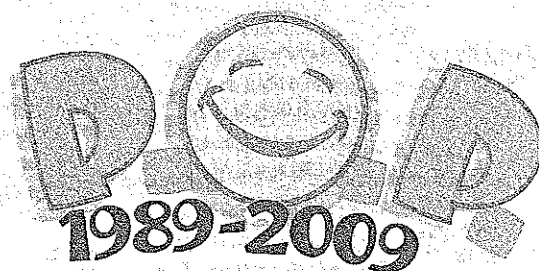
YOUTH News

The East Madison Community Center's Award winning Drug and Alcohol prevention program has turned 20 years old this year.

The Positive Options Program (P.O.P) meets on Friday nights from 4:30 pm-9:00 pm. The program serves youth ages 5-18. On average, 40 youth participate in each session. The majority of the youth are from the Eastside of Madison. (Truax and the Webb Rethke Neighborhoods) The program has three main components. The nutritional component consists of learning about

"Positive Options Program" Turns 20

nutrition and cooking a well balanced meal for the P.O.P participants. The second component is an educational class that is broken down into three different age groups (5-7), (8-11), (12 and above). Each group learns about age specific materials such as resistance skills, self esteem, life skills, social skills, responsibility, goal setting, anger management and much, much more. The final component is a wellness/exercise component. The youth participate in physical activities such as swimming, basketball, volleyball, rollerskating, gym games, rock climbing, and many others. P.O.P has been one of the most popular and positive programs amongst the youth: There have been



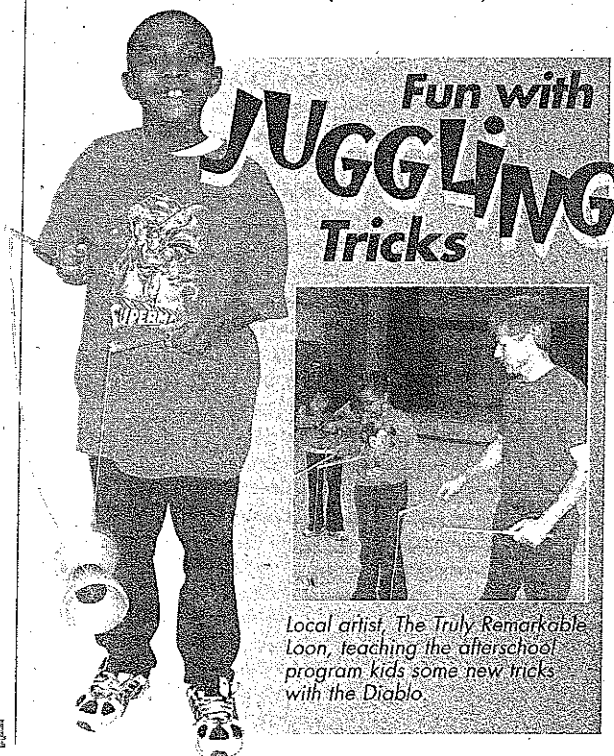
over 2000 unduplicated children that have participated in the program. The POP program has received numerous awards over the past twenty years such as: The Madison Dept of Public Health Prevention Awards, The State of WI. Exemplary Prevention Award and the National Exemplary Substance Abuse (CSAP SAMHSA). The Program

also has been duplicated in other community centers and is currently being used in Florida, South Carolina, and Indiana.

The EMCC would like to thank all the staff, volunteers and children for a wonderful 20 years and special thanks to all the past and present funding sources that have invested in the program. ■

EMCC Kids get in the Blues groove

The youth at the East Madison Community Center had a chance to learn about the Blues with the help of musician Joe Nosek. In June of 2008, Joe came to the EMCC during Learning Center and shared a video of his band performing a live show at the House of Blues in Chicago. He also taught them about the history of Blues music encouraging them to get involved in learning how to play the harmonica. Many of the youth expressed a great deal of interest in the music, so he gave everyone free harmonicas in addition to teaching a class here at EMCC. They practiced 3 songs and later performed at the Warner Park Blues Festival in the summer of 2008. By the last practice Joe had picked 7 more youth to participate which resulted in a total of 17 young performers. They all performed in front of crowd of thousands who made them feel like stars - they were really excited! Joe did a great job teaching these young people something new and exciting. The kids performed on NBC 15 News and will continue lessons this spring to perform at the 2009 Madison Blues Picnic on June 20th. ■



Local artist, The Truly Remarkable Loon, teaching the afterschool program kids some new tricks with the Diablo.

Saturday Enrichment Program

The Saturday Enrichment Program is a program that allows Middle School youth a chance to experience what it is like to attend classes and hangout on the U.W. Campus. The youth have the opportunity of picking from 21 exciting courses and will have to make the commitment of attending these classes each Saturday for 4 weeks. Thanks to Erika Braunginn, we had a chance to collaborate and use the East Madison Community Center as one of the location cites that facilitated a Digital Photography Class. The youth had lots of fun learning about Digital Photography. Linda Friend was the Instructor for the 11 youth in the program. We are so grateful to have had this opportunity that was made possible by the staff at The UW-Madison. The youth at the EMCC hope to have many more opportunities like this. ■

ROLF! ROLF! Read Out Loud to Fido Program is a kid's best friend

by Dana Schreiber

For almost 4 years, I have visited the EMCC weekly, first with my dog Loba and after she died, my new dog Pierre. We come to have children read to Pierre. I call our program.. ROLF ROLF, Read Out Loud to Fido. Having learned about Reading Education Assistance Dogs (READ), I jumped at the opportunity to start a READ program here. The idea behind READ is that sometimes children don't like to read out loud or at all, because



Photo by Brent Nicastro

the listener is too busy, too critical or has to be somewhere else. Dogs are none of that. According to the READ program, children really enjoy reading to a dog and are calmed by the experience of reading and petting a dog at the same time.

Also many children don't get to have dogs because of landlord or rental rules and so this program gives them a chance to enjoy a dog.

We start with tricks and treats for Pierre, then read for maybe

20 minutes, have a little more play and then each child gets a bookmark that has Pierre's photo on it.



Children really enjoy reading to a dog and are calmed by the experience of reading and petting a dog at the same time.



Pierre loves it and I am always thrilled that when we enter the center, kids of all ages and gender ask if they can "read to Pierre."

Reading in my opinion is the ticket to success and I hope this experience encourages them to experience the "FUN" of reading.

Thanks to John Harmelink, youth program director for allowing me to share this idea with his kids. ■



The Children's Library is open!



EMCC afterschool kids are ready for the courts.





A letter from

Alderman Joe Clausius

DISTRICT 12

Springtime greetings to all EMCC members! I would be amiss if I did not take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for the overwhelming support that I received in the February primary election. As stated previously, I will continue to work with residents in getting things done for our district rather than making headlines.

Before totally leaving behind the deliberations for the 2009 city budget, I would like to mention the Madison Metro bus fare increase. At a recent 2am city council meeting, it was voted to increase the cash bus fare from \$1.50 to \$2.

The fare increase was necessary for several reasons including:

- 150,000 will now be available for bus service expansion, without the increase service would need to be reduced.

- More security will now be added at transfer points, especially at peak transfer times.
- Providing a new program for low-income riders, existing monthly passes now costing \$48 monthly will be reduced to \$27.50
- Metro will now be able to start rebuilding its cash reserves and stave off another round of fare-increases in the near future.

As many of you have already noticed, Segment 4 of the East Washington Avenue (EWA) Reconstruction Project is now underway. This will be the final and most extensive segment of the five-year reconstruction project. It will include not only the EWA/HWY 30 bridge interchange but also the Fair Oaks /HWY 30 interchange. The major construction is slated for completion in December,

2009 with the landscaping portion of the project scheduled for 2010.

When completed the new EWA Project changes will include:

- A reconfigured interchange at EWA/HWY 30 that will allow for all turning movements on/off EWA.
- Traffic signals will be added at the ramp intersections with EWA.
- Bike lanes and decorative lighting will be added on EWA.
- The new EWA/HWY 30 bridges will have prairie style architecture features matching the new pedestrian bridge at Marquette Street.

Residents can obtain weekly updates on construction and lane closures by visiting: www.eastwashingtonavenue.com

I am also pleased to report that construction is continuing on the new HyVee grocery store in the former K-Mart building and the drive up Starbucks in the former Frame Workshop building. Both projects will be of benefit to area residents and eliminate a couple of vacant buildings on the "Wash."

In closing, I have sincerely enjoyed serving as your alder the past two years and ask for your support in the April 7th election.

If anyone has a question or concern regarding our district or city, please contact me at district12@cityofmadison.com or 244-5066.

responsible@education

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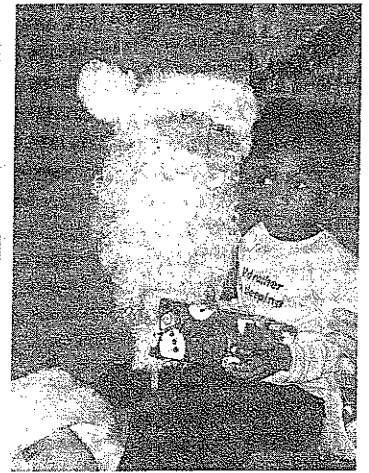
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Holiday Party Memories

Children played games, visited Santa's Den and received a present, made holiday crafts and enjoyed treats, danced at the disco, played in the bouncy house and on the basketball court and tried their luck in the fish pond for prizes. Through generous donations and many volunteer hours, EMCC

was able to provide a moment of holiday joy for the families and children of Truax and Webb-Rethke on the Eastside of Madison.



How Sweet it is!



Holiday cut-out cookies with the MATC baking club. The club shared their talents with the afterschool kids during an afternoon of decorating hundreds of cookies with festive frosting and colored sugars. Each child took home a box of cookies to share with their family.



THANKS MATC BAKING CLUB!

EMCC 2009 Board and Volunteers

Board Members

Aaron Blacks, Ellwood Carey, Denise Charkowski, Ruth Devine, Pat DiBiase, Sharon Dietzman, Qiana Holmes, Ebony Jackson, Kris Rasmussen, Lisa Rutherford, Katrina Smith, De'Kendra Stamps, Cynthia Walton, Der Xiong.

Food/Clothing/Household Items Distribution Volunteers

Billy Amore, Beatrice Burnell, Pam Cook, Kent Ferver, Barb Grimm, Pat Haak, Joan Kuehn, Karen Oliver, Joe Reyes, Betsy Setzer, Mylas Sparks, U.S. Cellular, Bruce V.

Resource Development

Ellwood Carey, Bunny Lenburg, Jason Smith, Michele/Thomas/Hutchins Design

Program Volunteers

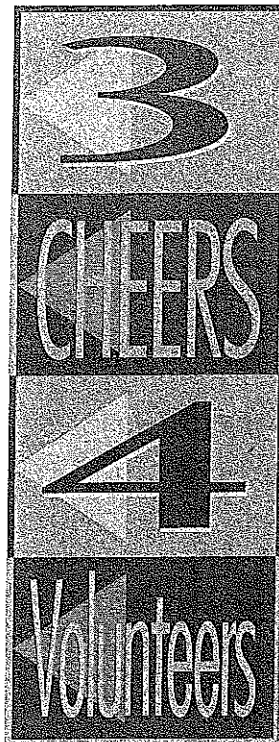
Jesse Driver, Pat Hadden, Sharon Lehmann, Debbie Perticara, Sharon Rice, Tammy Seekings, Ellen Stevens, Trisha Tennant

Youth Volunteers

Noah Cohen, Jazzmine Franks, Danny Herheim, Denzehl Jackson, Mike Jackson, Jr., Andrew Maduka, Tony Maduka, Debbie Perticara, Dana Schreiber, Ellen Stevens, Tricia Tennant, Tuneija Tornai, Addison Vong, Dashawn Winslow

Volunteer Web Developer

Jesse Driver



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Executive Director: Tom Moen
Assistant Director: Regina Koren
Youth Prgm. Mng'r: John Harmelink
Lead Youth Worker: Mike Jackson
Admin. Assistant: Ellen Lewis
Nutrition Coord.: Betsy Setzer
Youth Workers: LaRonda McLin
Bridget Rogers
Sandy Xiong
Tony Maduka

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East Madison Community Center

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