Parents and students interested in learning more about science and science careers are invited to a free family event April 9 at Edgewood College. A school bus will leave the center at 5 p.m. for a 5:30 p.m. dinner on campus, followed by separate science activities for parents and students.

Kennedy Heights’ staff, including a Hmong interpreter, will be on hand to assist families. Parents must accompany their children to the event.

Sign up at the center to participate in this fun and educational trip.

Kennedy Heights’ after school students are part of a city-wide project designed to narrow the achievement gap in science that exists for low-income and minority students.

The project is called COMETS: Creating Opportunity In Math, Engineering, Technology, and Science. The center is one of six community centers participating in the project, which is funded by a three-year $330,000 grant from the Madison Community Foundation.

Sherman Middle Schoolers AMAZE!

Left: Students enrolled in the Early Childhood Program played with new friends from Sherman Middle School after the middle schoolers dropped off more than 2,000 books they collected to benefit the center’s food pantry.

The eighth graders are part of their school’s Equity Leadership Council, a leadership group that advises the principal, trains other students, plans special events, and acts as positive role models.

More photos on page 7.
THANKS to Our Generous Partners and Friends

The Kennedy Heights Community Center depends on the generosity of its volunteers, friends, and community partners to thrive. The center’s clients, staff, and board of directors wish to publicly acknowledge four extraordinary donations:

The staff at Physician’s Plus donated $2,000 to general programming, via a United Way contribution. This gift will allow the center to meet emerging neighborhood needs and pilot innovative approaches to serving children and families.

The Madison Rotary Foundation provided a generous grant to support the food pantry and the Thanksgiving Basket Program.

The congragation of St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church donated $1,250 to the food pantry. This gift will help support the 45-50 families who supplement their diet with two-to-four days’ worth of food by shopping at the weekly pantry.

The Kennedy Heights Million Pound Challenge Team has earned 2,000+ pounds of food for the pantry (enough to feed 70 families for three days!) by logging weight loss and exercise online. The challenge is sponsored by Second Harvest Food Bank and the Princeton Club. Join the team and earn food for the pantry at http://www.princetonclub.net/mpc.

COMETS Family Science Night: A Rockin’ Good Time

Parent Toya Moss smiles in triumph after cracking a geode to reveal its crystal core. In addition to this hands-on science activity, parents also learned about emerging careers in science from Edgewood College scientists.

This was amazing!

- COMETS parent participant.
Mab Thoj, ib tug neeg ua hauj lwm pab dawb zoo tshaj plaws

Yog koj tuaj rau tom Kennedy Heights txhua hnhub Monday sawv ntxov, koj yuav pom Mab Thoj tsaws khoom tawm hauv ib lub tsheb truck puv nkaus cov khoom noj rau hauv lub food pantry txhua txhua asthiv. bYog koj rov qab tuaj rau thaim yay tsaus ntuj, koj yuav pom Mab muab cov khoom xaiv, muab sib tib, muab npe lo rau, thiab faib cov khoom noj ntawd.

Mab txoj kev pab ua hauj lwm pub dawb tsis yog ua rau hauv pantry xwb. Mab tseem mob siab koom nrog lwm pub pawg cob qhia los ntawm Asian Outreach Program thiab.

Thaum lub sij hawm Mab tsis ua hauj lwm pub dawb, Mab nrhiav sij hawm los nrog nws tus txiv and plaub tug me nyuam nyob ua ke, xyaum yoga, thiab xaws paj ntaub Hmoob.

Tom ntej no, Mab yuav xeem kom tau los ua neeg Åsmeliskas, mus kawm ntawv tom MATC kom thiaj tau nws daim GED thiab nws daim associate’s degree. bTsis tas li los nws tseem yuav mob siab txhawb nqa nws cov me nyuam kom mus kawm tau ntawv qib siab thiab.

Meet Ma Thao, Super Volunteer

Stop by the Kennedy Heights Community Center on any Monday morning, and you’ll find volunteer Ma Thao unloading a truck filled with fresh items for the weekly food pantry. Stop back in the evening, and you’ll see Ma sorting, stacking, labeling, and distributing the same food to residents.

Ma’s community involvement isn’t confined to the pantry. Ma is a dedicated participant in several groups facilitated by the Asian Outreach Program, and is a newly elected member of the board of directors.

When not volunteering, Ma enjoys time with her husband and four children, practices yoga, and hand-embroiders traditional Hmong clothing.

Ma’s aspirations include studying to become a U.S. citizen, attending MATC to earn a GED and an associate’s degree, and helping her children prepare for college.
Sistas of Kennedy Heights: Sisterhood is Powerful

The Sistas of Kennedy Heights is a group of Northside African-American women who meet weekly to discuss books, parenting, relationships, current events, and community needs.

A major goal of the group is to build a stronger community by building strong leaders.

Interested in good conversation, good fellowship, and good food? Contact Karen at 244-0767, or simply stop by the center at 9 a.m. every Thursday.

Babies and toddlers welcome!

Photos: Top, left to right: Talena, Tonya; below, left to right: Dionna, Simone, Teresa, Tiffany.
Kennedy Heights’ supporter and volunteer Kazoua Moua was recently awarded a North Star Award by the Northside Planning Council. Moua, a nutrition educator at the University of Wisconsin Extension, was recognized by the council for her long-time community service on the Northside.

Moua volunteers at the Kennedy Heights food pantry, works in her church and at Troy Gardens, and helps teach a weekly ESL class. In addition, Moua has taught cooking and nutrition classes to adults at Kennedy Heights and shared healthy snack-making with children in the Early Childhood Program.

NORTHSIDE PRIDE: Kazoua Moua Receives North Star Award

After School Ice Capades

Students and staff from the After School Program enjoy a day on the ice at the Tenney Park ice rink.

Kennedy Heights Community Center
Board of Directors

John Givens, Chair
Lynne Solomon, Vice-Chair
Erik Larson, Treasurer
LaDonna McReynolds
JoAnne (Jody) Schmitz
Liz Fritz
Simone Howard
Lisa DuChateau
Patricia Butler
LaTonya Franklin
Ma Thao
Martin Luther King, Jr., Day: Learning, Celebrating, Serving

In recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, many Madison students celebrated by performing community service. Instead of spending the day on the couch watching TV, 10 members of Girls Inc. and Boys Club participated in a day of science and service in the MLK Youth Service Day at the University of Wisconsin Institute for Discovery. The morning session included hands-on activities and demonstrations. At Madison Gas & Electric’s exploration station, sixth grader Jada Shaw (below, left) pedaled a bicycle to power light bulbs, a fan, a radio, and even a blender to make a smoothie to quench her thirst.

When asked about her favorite exploration station, sixth grader Jaitaja Graham said that her favorite AND least favorite station was human organs. UW Medical School students provided a human heart, liver, kidneys, lungs, intestines, and brain that students could hold and ask questions about. “It was so gross, but so cool,” said Jaitaja. Photo, below: Jaitaja (left) and Jada Shaw bravely examine a brain.

To complete their day, students selected one of five community service projects to participate in; the Kennedy Heights’ group decorated meal bags for Meals on Wheels. Said seventh grader Daishon Boyd, “It seems like an art project to us, but it’s helping people.”

To top off the day, students and staff enjoyed Babcock ice cream at Union South. Photo, above, right: Daishon Boyd (left) and AmeriCorps member Jordan Harder give two thumbs up to their treat.

On handling human brains: “It was so gross, but so cool.”

Jaitaja Graham
BOOK BONANZA

Sherman Middle School students carry in some of the 2000+ books they collected during a recent book drive to benefit the center’s food pantry. After their hard work, the students re-energized with a pizza lunch, and then painted, read, and played dress up and restaurant with their new early childhood friends.
Giant Steps Scholarship

Are you a graduating senior seeking funds for college tuition and books? Then, stop by the center for an application for the Giant Steps Scholarship, which will be awarded to students who have “faced and conquered life hurdles.” Ask for Karen or Jaimie. Application deadline: April 4, 2013.

Margaret’s Fund: A Northside Scholarship

High school seniors from Madison’s Northside are invited to apply for Margaret’s Fund: A Northside Scholarship. Margaret’s Fund is a $500 award made to a graduating high school senior in odd years and an adult returning to school in even years. Candidates must be graduating from high school in 2013, have plans to pursue post-secondary education or a degree or certificate-granting program during the 2013-14 school year, and have a permanent address on the Northside.

Applications are welcome from all who meet basic requirements. Margaret’s Fund especially welcomes applications from those who have been active participants in Northside organizations, have overcome substantial obstacles or challenges to success, or are in the first generation of their family to pursue post-secondary education.

May 10, 2013, is the postmark deadline for applications. For details and to download an application, see www.northsidemadison.org

Scholarship News

COMETS Family Science Night

Tuesday, April 9
Meet at the center at 5 p.m.
Dinner, science experiments, career information, fun!