News from the Heights

Kennedy Heights Community Center

Summer Camp: How Sweet It Is

On the very first day of summer camp at the Kennedy Heights Community Center, campers dove into the season with a refreshing dip in the Goodman Pool. Since then, campers swam and relaxed at the pool every Monday. On other days, campers sought adventure through team-building activities, bowling, water balloon battles, an urban scavenger hunt, community service, tours, and games of skill and athleticism in the Kennedy Heights Olympics.

Each week of camp revolved around a different theme. By the end of the summer session, campers will have participated in seven themes, including Adventure, Culture, Fitness, Water, Engineering, Kids’ Choice, and Nature and Survival.

Campers took frequent field trips to learn about their city; they explored the Madison Children’s Museum; sorted donated veggies at Community Action Coalition; baked homemade cookies for volunteers at Habitat for Humanity; toured local and regional parks and lakes; fished; climbed rocks at Boulder’s Gym; and set up a mock wilderness camp.

At left: Campers pose atop the roof of the Madison Children’s Museum. And the fun isn’t over yet! Camp will continue through August 15. Campers with good attendance will be rewarded with a trip to Wisconsin Dells August 16.

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

Join your friends and neighbors for a last summer fling at a community picnic on Wednesday, August 28. The event runs from 4-6 p.m. in the area around the community center.

Kids, come to receive free school supplies, snack on tasty treats, and jump in the bouncy house.

Adults, bring a blanket to lay on the grass, snack, and make an evening of it. Community Center staff will be on hand to sign up students for youth programs.

Want to volunteer? Contact Karen at 244-0767 or kseno@khcommunitycenter.org

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Too Hot?
Need a break from the heat? The center has air conditioning and is open M-F 8:30 AM—5:00 PM. Adults are welcome to stop by, grab a seat and cool off.

STAFF
Alyssa Kenney, Executive Director
Karen Seno, Assistant Director
Lydia Maurer, Early Childhood
Tree Vang, After School, Early Childhood
Tyson Brown, Food Service
Duanta Jordan, Food Service
Dwana Shuvall, After School
Megan Beckler, After School
Jamie Schlicher, Girls Inc.
Stephanie Nash, M.E.R.I.T.
Shan Branch, M.E.R.I.T.
JeVaughnte Robinson, M.E.R.I.T.
Ma Thao, Food Pantry
Jordan Harder, AmeriCorps
Yimnuaj Yang, Asian Outreach
From Alyssa Kenney, Executive Director

Summer, it is a time for swimming at the pool and games of tag in the neighborhood. It is a time when local produce is abundant, family reunions happen and the neighborhood is alive with activity. For many, it is a great time to live in Madison.

But for some families summer is a very stressful time. The breakfast and lunch provided at school are no longer available. Affordable, reliable child care and enrichment activities for older children are scarce. The structure and the supports of the school system are gone. Many children get stuck inside babysitting siblings and watching TV. Summer can be a difficult time for many families.

Luckily, the center offers a summer meal program, a weekly food pantry, an early childhood program and an enriching day camp for children in 4th—9th grades. These programs can alleviate some of the stress for families and can bring joy and play to children in our neighborhood.

There remains work to be done. Not all children on the northside have access to quality programs. Many children remain on waitlists or have no programming options. Currently, our Board of Directors is working on a vision for the future of the center. How to address and serve the children and families that are left out of summer programming will be one of the issues the Board will tackle. In a few months the Board will have a vision for the future to present to the community. Stay tuned.

Clare Norelle: Gracias and Adios

Long-time volunteer and center employee, Clare Norelle, has resigned her position to focus on her other passions—teaching yoga and working as a bilingual resource specialist at Gompers Elementary School.

Clare started her work at with the center over ten years ago when she served as the coordinator for the Community Cultures Project. Since then, Clare has worked as a teacher in our preschool, as the Interim Executive Director, and most recently as the food pantry coordinator. She helped create a food pantry that is fair, welcoming, and stocked with tasty, nutritious foods and practical household items.

Clare promises not to be a stranger to the neighborhood and the community center; she intends to return to the center as a volunteer.

We wish Clare luck in her new adventures, and urge her to hurry back as a volunteer.

Ma Thao is the new food pantry coordinator. Ma is a Kennedy Heights resident who is active in many center events as a parent and volunteer.
Food Pantry Volunteers: Labor with Heart and Soul

Veterans. Left to right: Kathrene Almeida can always be counted on to lighten the mood of the volunteer crew as she sets up the night’s goodies. When not volunteering at the pantry, Kathrene works for the State of Wisconsin as a workmen’s compensation specialist. Doua Chang is the pantry’s go-to volunteer for all things produce. In his leisure time, Doua cultivates an unusual hobby: raising lovebirds. Kazoua Moua, a nutritionist with the UW-Extension, not only works the pantry floor, but also whips up tasty treats to show shoppers new ways to prepare foods available at the pantry.

Real Men Volunteer. Left to right: ReDonald Douglas, Joseph Ross, and Jamal Johnson take a breather after unloading a semi-truck full of fresh produce, bread, canned goods, and bread for the center’s weekly food pantry. Far right: Pheara Phem helps by unloading boxes of meat. Have a couple of hours on Monday morning to serve your community? Call Karen at 244-0767 to volunteer. Residents who volunteer for 45 minutes enjoy the perk of shopping before other residents.
Calling All 4th Graders!

Do you know a child entering fourth grade this fall? Now is the time to get acquainted with Drop-in After School, Girls Inc., and Boys Group. All incoming fourth graders are invited to attend ArtZone at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art on Thursday, August 15. We will meet at the center at 9 a.m. and return at noon for lunch.

Are you older than a fourth grader, but don’t know about youth programs at the community center? Come visit! Stop by the center and talk to Jaimie or Jordan for more information. Girls Inc. is a national program that inspires girls to be “strong, smart and bold.” Boys Group is a weekly program for middle school boys that helps them make the transition into young men.

### Important School Dates for Families

#### Elementary School Registration

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>New students</th>
<th>August 21</th>
<th>8 a.m.-Noon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Returning students: West and Memorial Areas</td>
<td>August 22</td>
<td>11 a.m.-6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returning students: East and La Follette Areas</td>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>11 a.m.-6 p.m.</td>
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#### Middle School Registration

| All grades | August 22 | 9-11:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. |
| All grades | August 23 | 9-11:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. |

#### High School Registration (East, La Follette, West, Memorial)

| New students | August 16 | 8 a.m.-Noon and 1-4 p.m. |
| All grades | August 20 | 8 a.m.-Noon and 3-6 p.m. |
| All grades | August 21 | 8 a.m.-Noon and 3-6 p.m. |

#### Shabazz City High School Registration

| All students | August 21 | 2-6 p.m. |
| Grade 12 | August 28 | 9:15 a.m. |
| Grade 11 | August 28 | 10 a.m. |
| Grades 9 and 10 | August 28 | 11:30 a.m. |

### Register Early for School

Early enrollment begins August 6. Not sure what papers you need to enroll your child? Check online at [www.mmsd.org/enroll](http://www.mmsd.org/enroll) or call 663-4957. Have Internet at home? Register online at [www.mmsd.org/enroll](http://www.mmsd.org/enroll)

No Internet? Visit these locations for help with online enrollment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 12</td>
<td>2-5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 13</td>
<td>9-11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Tuesday, August 13</td>
<td>3-6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 14</td>
<td>8-11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 14</td>
<td>3-6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 14</td>
<td>3-6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 15</td>
<td>8-11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 15</td>
<td>3-6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Friday, August 16</td>
<td>10 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
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Stephanie Nash: Superstar

Kennedy Heights coordinator Stephanie Nash was the recent recipient of two awards for her outstanding work with youth. The local chapter of 100 Black Men named Stephanie Outstanding Youth Mentor of 2013. In the same month, the Wisconsin Association of Youth and Child Care Professionals selected Stephanie as the State Wisconsin Youth Worker of the Year. Stephanie was recognized by both organizations for her ongoing work with youth as a teacher, coach, mentor, and friend.

Stephanie has worked at the Kennedy Heights Community Center for two years as coordinator of MERIT, a federally-funded teaching and demonstration program that empowers youth to make healthy choices about sexual health and gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to reduce their risk of STDs, HIV, and becoming or getting someone pregnant.

Through her work at Kennedy Heights, Stephanie has reached over 300 youth in Dane County.

We are honored and proud to have such a skilled and committed member of our staff team.

Kristen Thomas: New Adventure

The hardest part of every summer is bidding farewell to our amazing AmeriCorps members. Kristin Thomas (above, left) worked with Girls Inc., fourth and fifth graders in the After School Program, and Summer Camp. Still, she knew the name and face of almost every child who visited the center regularly. Kennedy Heights was lucky to have had such a dedicated youth worker. We wish her all the best!
MEET LYDIA MAURER:

Early Childhood Program Teacher

Lydia Maurer has joined the Kennedy Heights staff as the new Early Childhood Program teacher. Lydia has worked in the early childhood field for more than 11 years, most recently as a family childcare provider in the Vera Court neighborhood, where she helped children ages two months to 15 years learn and grow.

A longtime Northsider, Lydia also has worked as an AmeriCorps member for Easter Seals Wisconsin.

Lydia said she sought the position at Kennedy Heights because she wanted to “live, work, and play” on her beloved Northside.

Strong families and children who are active and eager to learn are two of the many reasons Lydia says she is enjoying her new role in the community. When not teaching, Lydia enjoys playing piano and guitar, watching the TV show “Glee,” walking in Cherokee Marsh, and fishing with her two children. Lydia’s family also includes a pet dog and tarantula.

Parents are encouraged to contact Lydia at lmaurer@khcommunitycenter.org

Early Childhood and 4K Programs Enrolling NOW

The Kennedy Heights morning preschool program for children ages 3–5 and the afternoon 4 year old kindergarten program are currently enrolling for fall. Stop by the center for enrollment information or call Lydia at 244-0767. Don’t delay; spaces fill up quickly.

Thanks to Our Generous Donors and Friends

Roundy’s Donates $500, 2,000 Pounds of Food

What a thrill it was this summer to unload a truck full of pancake mix, chicken, beans, cereal, and much more, all donated by the Roundy’s Foundation of Milwaukee.

Roundy’s generous gift helped re-stock the food pantry cupboards, and allowed shoppers to choose more food and a greater variety of food.

Roundy’s also donated $500 to the community center to support the food pantry.

Girls Inc. Receives Capital Times Kids Award

Girls Inc. was recently awarded $3000 by The Capital Times Kids Fund. The grant will allow Girls Inc., a national program that “inspires girls to be strong, smart and bold,” to continue its weekly work at the community center to support girls ages 9-18.

Girls Inc. helps girls who live in low-income neighborhoods be successful in school and in daily life by proving 700 hours of programs to 50 participants throughout the year.

Girls Inc. offers a wide variety of programs, including academic support, field trips, health education, recreation, cultural activities, and art, technology, and science projects.
Scenes from Summer

Above: Summer campers toured the city in search of learning, adventure, and fun in the sun.
Below: Children in the Early Childhood Program enjoy playing and learning.
SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Northside Youth Council

The Northside Youth Council is looking for middle and high school students eager to make the Northside a better place to live, work, and play. The council is especially interested in students who can help organize a Youth Empowerment Summit this fall. There are three ways to join the council:

Visit: www.northsidemadison.org/youth
Contact: youth@northsideplanningcouncil.org
Tell: Jaimie at the community center.

Kennedy Heights Community Center

The Kennedy Heights Community Center is seeking a volunteer receptionist for a few hours each day or week. Minorities, W-2 clients, and bilingual residents (English/Hmong or English/Khmer) are encouraged to apply. The basic duties of the position include:

* Faxing documents for residents.
* Making photocopies for residents.
* Answering the telephone in a pleasant manner.
* Greeting visitors in a pleasant manner and directing them appropriately.

Kennedy Heights Back to School Picnic

4-6 p.m.
Wednesday, August 28

Tasty treats, bouncy house, free school supplies.

BRING A BLANKET!

Meet and Eat Comes North

The City of Madison is sponsoring Meet and Eat on Madison’s Northside every Tuesday in August. Local food carts will set up in the parking lot of St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2126 North Sherman Ave., from 5-7:30. The city will provide porta potties and picnic tables. The center has a limited number of $2 off coupons for families. Stop by the center to pick up your coupon.