News from the Heights

The Season for Giving
The Top 10 Ways to Give to the Kennedy Heights Community Center

1. Make a tax-deductible donation to our center. Donation envelope inside.
2. Read to a preschooler or help a middle schooler with homework in our Early Childhood Program or After School Program. On-the-job training provided.
3. Stock shelves as a food pantry aide or answer the phone and greet visitors as a volunteer receptionist. No experience necessary.
4. Give art and craft supplies, games, sports equipment, and other items to a center program. Wish list on page 3.
5. Donate non-perishable food to the weekly food pantry. Think cans!
6. Sign up for a discount card at Pierce’s Grocery. Pierce’s donates a portion of sales to our center.
7. Organize a canned food or personal products drive at your workplace. We’ll help.
8. Join our board of directors and help us grow our future.
9. Bestow a gift in honor or in memory of a family member, co-worker, or friend.
10. Like us on Facebook and share our good work with your friends.

Learn more about our work, how your gift supports our work, and how to donate electronically at www.khcommunitycenter.org

We envision a safe and vibrant community where people can connect, learn, grow and thrive.
From Alyssa Kenney, Executive Director

Yes, we do that, too. Sometimes it is hard to know every-thing our community center does. We have a preschool, a 4 year old Kindergarten, an After School Program and a food pantry. We are also a host site for Girls Inc. and have a vibrant youth program. Kennedy Heights hosts two AmeriCorps members that tutor at Black Hawk middle school during the day and work with youth in the evening at the center. Kennedy Heights staff facilitate MERIT, a teen pregnancy prevention program, throughout the city and at the community center. We have programming, services and groups for adults in the community, as well.

Now, we have one more service to offer the community. In early October, the entire Kennedy Heights staff became Special Registration Deputies for the City of Madison. So, if anyone needs to register to vote they can ask any staff member to register you. Yes, we do that, too.

Need to register to vote? Stop by the center and we can help!

Affordable Care Act HealthConnect Program

UW Health and United Way of Dane County have formed a partnership to create a new program, HealthConnect. With all the changes underway that affect eligibility for insurance coverage under BadgerCare and provisions of the Affordable Care Act, many in our community will be affected. HealthConnect will pay the premium for any of the approved silver level health plans secured through the Health Insurance Marketplace for individuals who earn between 100-133% of the federal poverty level. HealthConnect is open to any Dane County resident whose income falls between 100-133% of the federal poverty level. To enroll in the program, individuals should log onto the Health Insurance Marketplace by visiting healthcare.gov or calling by (800) 318-2596 and purchase any silver level coverage plan. Next, they should call United Way 2-1-1 or visit unitedwaydanecounty.org/healthconnect and submit a short application form.

WELCOME SHELTON EVANS: Youth Coordinator

Look out, Packer fanatics. There’s a Cowboys’ fan in the house! New youth coordinator, Shelton Evans, is a die-hard Dallas supporter who is even bold enough to wear Cowboys’ gear in public.

In his new role as youth coordinator, Shelton will plan activities and facilitate discussion groups for boys and girls in grades 4-9 and make connections with parents to help support students’ academic and civic growth.

Shelton has deep roots in youth work. His experience includes work at the Boys and Girls Clubs in Janesville and Green Bay, the school district of Janesville, the Janesville Youth Football league, the City of Janesville Rec-Nites, and as a trainer/facilitator in the areas of bullying and diversity. Shelton also has been a foster parent and worked in a youth ministry.

When not on the job, Shelton likes to read, travel, laugh, talk, and hang out with his nieces and nephew.

So far, Shelton’s favorite things about the Kennedy Heights neighborhood are its rich diversity and the inclusiveness of community center programs.

Favorite ice cream flavor: Chocolate.

Favorite TV watching: The Cosby Show.

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YOU can make a difference in the life of a child, a family, and our community center by donating the new or gently used items listed below. Your gift—no matter the value—will help. THANK YOU for caring.

**Food Pantry/Family Support**
- Canned Good: Tuna, soup, fruit
- Ramen noodles
- Cereal, Peanut butter, Mac and cheese
- Toiletries
- Metro bus tickets
- Stamps
- Gift cards: Food, gas, pharmacies

**Early Childhood Program**
- Construction paper
- Games: Life, Monopoly, Hi Ho Cherry-o
- Bouncy balls, kick balls
- Whisks, spoons, measuring cups, muffin liners
- Children Music CD’s
- Play-doh
- Matchbox cars
- Buttons
- Digital camera
- Subscription: Ranger Rick, National Geographic Kids
- Typewriter

**After School Program**
- Markers
- Backpacks (ages 5-12)
- Legos
- Board games
- Saucer sleds
- Cooking utensils

**Boys Group**
- Poster board (various colors)
- Gift cards: Mall, movies, iTunes
- Travel-size lotion, deodorant
- Subscription: Sports Illustrated
- Posters and books featuring diverse teens
- Basketballs, footballs, Nerf balls, foam balls

**Girls Inc.**
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Gift cards: Laser Tag, Fast Forward
- Nail polish
- Lead for mechanical pencils
- Headphones
- Double Dutch jump ropes
- Inspirational posters (no celebrities, please)

**MEET LISA CHARRON: AmeriCorps Member**

The great outdoors is Lisa Charron’s playground. Lisa, our newest PASS AmeriCorps worker, loves cross-country skiing, biking, Frisbee golf, horseback riding, and any other athletic pursuit that gets her heart pumping.

Lisa’s energetic lifestyle helps make her a good match in her new role as tutor, homework helper, reading buddy, and activity planner. Before joining the Kennedy Heights’ team, Lisa taught yoga and meditation to elementary students in an after school program in Baltimore. Lisa graduated from Goucher College in Baltimore, with degrees in English and religion.

When not working and working out, Lisa spends her free time laughing along with the TV show Parks and Recreation and indulging her passion for cooking and baking (she makes a killer chocolate chip cookie!).

Lisa’s favorite things about working in the Kennedy Heights’ neighborhood: The fun energy of the students and working with supportive parents.

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Girls Inc. Dance Performance: 
SAVE THE DATE

Girls Inc. is preparing to hit the dance floor again for an audience of family and friends. This semester they are learning new routines from a UW School of Dance student.

The winter showcase, Performing Ourselves, will be at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 18, in the Community Room at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Mark your calendar and plan to join us.

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