



5th Annual Family Literacy Night

By Alyssa Kenney

Over fifty families from the northside joined together for Kennedy Heights' 5th annual Family Literacy Night on Tuesday November 10th. Older youth, AmeriCorp members, and community center staff put together a carnival of literacy activities for young children and their parents to enjoy. Young children moved from



An older youth helps a child write a storybook

activity to activity beading name bracelets, playing word Twister, visiting the public library booth, and creating their own story books. At each activity area children had the opportunity to earn a book to take home. Over 300 books were distributed to families in the community.

Staff and volunteers made over 10 quarts of fried

rice and every last bite was enjoyed by families. The Girls Inc. program also made a large fruit salad for Family Literacy Night as part of their healthy cooking classes at UW-Extension. Thank you to all the families that attended this successful event.



Esther Lee and Michael Onabula read

Inside

Early Childhood Stone Soup	2
Perspectives from two AmeriCorps	3
Got TV?	3
Important Dates	4
After School Science Club	4
After School is Cool	4

Youth Program Off to a Busy Start

By Roy LaValley

The Youth Program has been very busy this fall, with more kids than ever participating. We have expanded our collaboration with East Madison Community Center to include a break-dancing night on Thursdays as well as our usual dodge ball Tuesdays. Both of these active recreation



Kevin Hongmanivahn break-dances

programs follow homework help time, so our kids get to work out their minds as well as their bodies. We have been lucky to have a dedicated group of both

high school and adult break-dance teachers coming every Thursday to help teach. Eighth grade program participant Jua Vang says "I felt that when you break-dance, every time you fail you keep trying. To do something, you have to keep trying. The program is awesome—better than any other." Ninth grader Pheraa Phem said, "We can teach each other more. It's fun because I'm really good at it." Soon we will be expanding Thursday's break-dancing to include Spoken Word as well.

We also collaborated this fall with the Madison Hostel's Community Walls Project. Jessica Emond came out to help our kids create a painting depicting their community for

travelers staying at the hostel. The project took five weeks to complete, and the boys are very proud of their painting. Sixth grader, Mohamed Jama said, "We made it to show about Wisconsin. It was fun and I liked painting."

Another program highlight was baking for Habitat for Humanity. A group of boys came in on a Saturday and baked a few dozen chocolate chip cookies that we then delivered to the crew working on Habitat homes across the street. "It's cool and fun to make them happy," said sixth grader Deronde Gulley.



Youth work on Community Wall project



Boys group baking cookies

News From the Heights



Girls Inc. Leaders

By Lisa DuChateau

One of the key aspects of Girls Inc. is to assist in the development of leadership skills. This fall, nine middle school girls attended the Youth Leadership Conference at East High School. The conference offers teens the opportunity to attend workshops on developing interview and job skills, making



Kia Yang at the Racial Justice Summit

positive decisions, and leadership skills. The girls that attended the event should be commended for seizing an opportunity on a day off of school.

Two senior Girls Inc. girls also attended the YWCA of Madison's Racial Justice Summit at the beginning of October. The theme of the Summit was the "School to Prison Pipeline" and the girls attended workshops pre-

sent by the City of Madison and the ACLU on knowing their rights. Kennedy Heights' own, Kia Thao, was also invited to serve on the youth panel. Kia did a beautiful job of answering questions regarding her experiences within the school system and community.

We should be very proud of the positive things our girls are doing and the great leaders they are becoming.

Early Childhood Program Stone Soup Project

By: Nicole Cummings

Once upon a time, there were two preschool teachers who had so many well behaved children they didn't know what to do!

We are truly enjoying our more mature four and five year olds this year in the Early Childhood Program. We have made a few new friends this year and continue to build friendships. The children have been working so cooperatively;

building long roads, towers, houses, airplanes and space-ships.

They also have been busy expanding their math knowledge through card games, like "Go Fish" as well as through fun fall activities like pumpkin carving. Each child helped scoop out "pumpkin guts" collecting and counting seeds. "Whoa that's a lot!" "Mine are slimy!" "I have 27!" were just a few of the children's excitable observations. When we added up all of our pumpkin seeds we totaled 137!

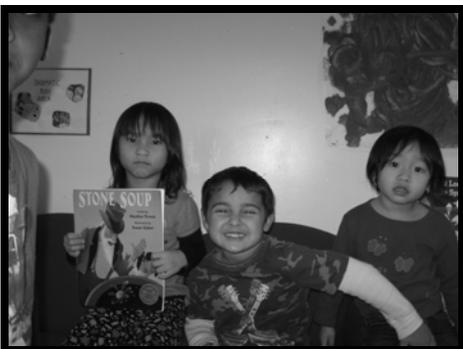
Recently, we began a unit on healthy foods and will be discussing family traditions. We started off by reading the book, *Stone Soup*, and talked about how we could make our own soup at school. "I

have a potato at home" and "I have a carrot" said a couple of our preschoolers. But my favorite quote was from one of our 5 year old boys who exclaimed, "I'll bring the water!" It was a very fun way for the children to get excited about vegetables.

I'd like to extend continued thanks to our amazing volunteer, Kate Remington. And a warm welcome to our two UW student volunteers this semester. Aly Xiong is majoring in Social Work and helps us every Tuesday and Wednesday. Molly McCreary is finishing her Political Science degree, assisting our classroom every Friday. If we're lucky, she may continue her volunteer work with the preschoolers next semester as well. Thank you for all of your help!!



Rooney Chang & Zubeer Issa making soup



Participants showing off the Stone Soup book

News From the Heights



Perspectives From Two Americorps Members

By Katie Jones

The Girls Inc. group at Kennedy Heights has been involved in many diverse and exciting activities this fall! The girls have been working hard on homework and community service projects while still having fun.

During Halloween the girls decorated sugar cookies for a nursing home. They also made Halloween and fall decorations which included spiders, ghosts, leaves, and pumpkins. The



Girls volunteering at Literacy Night

residents of the nursing home really enjoyed what we made for them!

Several girls went hiking at Indian Lake County Park with Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program. After hiking for an hour we sat around a campfire and cooked hot dogs on sticks over the flame. For dessert we made s'mores which were a big hit for everyone.

Girls Inc. has been hosting several visiting student groups from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The Women in Communication group that

came helped the girls interview each other and make fashion magazine ads. The Women in Engineering group that came did several science experiments, which included making invisible ink.

Our girls have also been very busy using their creativity at the center. The girls wrote autobiographies, poems, and short stories for a Girls Inc. literary magazine. They also took pictures and drew artwork to decorate the pages.

The girls who attend Girls Inc. at Kennedy Heights have been a lot of fun to work with. If this fall is any indication, we are sure to have a busy and exciting winter and spring to look forward to!

Got TV?

The Kennedy Heights Community Center recently received a very generous donation of a Wii Console and a Wii Fit for youth in our programs to use. **But we need a TV.** We are looking for a working 32 inch or larger television. Please contact Alyssa at 244-0767 if you have a TV to donate or any E-rated Wii games.

Staff

Alyssa Kenney, Executive Director
 Jim Kidd, Custodian
 Nicole Cummings, Early Childhood True Vang, After School Coordinator, Early Childhood Assistant Teacher
 Tyson Brown, Food Service
 Lexi Larson, After School Teacher
 Dionna Stovall, After School Teacher
 VamMeej Yang, Asian Outreach
 Lisa DuChateau, Girls Inc.
 Siomne Howard, Program Assistant
 Roy LaValley, Youth Program
 Clare Norelle, Food Pantry
 Lo Chang, Technology Coordinator
 Sam Bergsohn, AmeriCorps Member
 Katie Jones, AmeriCorps Member

By: Sam Bergsohn

As a new member to the Madison community, I have been amazed by the strength of the education system. While working as a tutor at Blackhawk Middle School, I have been even more astonished by the amount of positive influences that are provided for the students on a daily basis.

Working in conjunction with the AmeriCorps, Partners for After School Success program, I tutor eight kids a week who live in and around the Kennedy Heights Town-

houses. The children in my group are all extremely motivated students who have continually impressed me with their maturity and intellect.

Sixth grader Xaoly Xiong said, *"I get tutored every Tuesday. I think it's fun because I get my homework done."*

Luckily, I have been able to build on the relationships I've formed with the kids I tutor by being able to help run programming for the youth program at Kennedy Heights Community Center. In an extremely short period of time, I've seen and helped my

kids increase their reading, math, science, history, and language skills, and more importantly I've seen their potential for so much more. Over the past two months, and for the rest of the year, I want to push the kids to learn as much as they can, not just for the sake of their grades at school, but so they are able to know more about the world, and be the best possible people they can be. For me personally, I have learned a whole lot from the kids, and they have definitely made me a better person.

Board of Directors

John Givens, Chair
 Kiesha Young, Treasurer
 Lynne Solomon
 Lacey Vosen
 LaDonna McReynolds
 Jody Schmitz
 Mary Hyde
 Simone Howard
 Camille Graham

Kennedy Heights Neighborhood Association

199 Kennedy Heights
Madison, WI 53704

Phone: 608-244-0767

Fax: 608-661-9190

E-mail: director@khcommunitycenter.org



United Way
of Dane County



Check out our new site
khcommunitycenter.org

Important Dates

December 7th 5:00—6:00
December 14th 5:00—6:00
Food Pantry

December 21st 10—12
Giving Tree Gift Pick-Up

Dec. 23rd—Jan. 1st
Community Center Closed
for Winter Break

January 4th
All regular programming
resumes

January 20th 5:00—7:30
Special Board of Directors
Planning Meeting
Residents Welcome

Science Club Inspires

By: Alyssa Kenney

For the past 3 years the Kennedy Heights After School program has been a partner in a Science Club program. Each week a talented volunteer arrives at the center with hands-on science project for the children to participate in.

Rockets, balloons, magnets, fingerprints, germs, weather, static, silly putty, microscopes, and many other engaging projects have been introduced during the club. The children look forward to the



Pao Vang and Ja'Cory Hillery

weekly club with our fantastic volunteer Cathy Vrentas. Thank you Cathy.



Malik Cameron

After School is Cool

By: Makalia Ariel Phillips, Age 9

Everyday Monday through Friday we go to After School at the Center. Everyday we eat snack, do homework or read and then get to go on the computers. Except Fridays, instead of doing homework we do an art project.

When I get to go on the computers—I almost always go onto Wee World. Wee World is a place that you get to dress up a person, give them a name and make them their own room. You can also take them to the gym, the mall or to hang out with friends.

If you stay longer on Wee World you can earn and spend money, that is also fun. I have gotten to do lots of new things at After School, it is fun. After School is cool for kids like me.



Makalia