

News From the Heights

Girl Neighborhood Power: Giving and Receiving

As the leaves begin to fall and the frost forms on our windows, the winter season is arriving and many of our thoughts turn to the idea of giving and receiving. The Girl Neighborhood Power program is enthusiastically joining in the spirit of the season with a few new initiatives in the upcoming months.

In December, our girls will be selling homemade fudge as a fundraiser for the GNP program and the community center. During the week of December 17th, we will be

going door to door to ask members of the community to purchase fudge which we will then make fresh and deliver to your door! Wrapped up and ready to go, the fudge would make a wonderful present or just a nice treat for you and your family.

In the beginning of November, eight of our GNP girls, ages 11 and up, participated in the Red Cross Babysitting Training course. After an intensive workshop and several hours of training, the girls received their certifications and are now eager to put them to use. We will be working in the next few weeks to form

our own babysitting service, "The Girl Neighborhood Power Babysitters Bunch". The girls will be available to babysit on weekday evenings and on the weekends. We are extremely enthusiastic about the project and hope that we can provide a helpful service to the community and support our budding entrepreneur girl power participants. If you have any questions about fudge, babysitting, or anything else regarding Girl Neighborhood Power, feel free to contact Emily at the center, 244-0767.



Girl Power participants learn what to do if a baby is choking during Red Cross Babysitting Training



Girl Power participants practice feeding a baby during training

Experience the Hmong New Year

By See Yang and Kia Thao
Our favorite time of the year is the Hmong New Year. The Madison Hmong New Year always takes place around Thanksgiving. On the day before the New Year, the Shaman Hmong people gather together and perform a ritual where the priest waves a live chicken as the people walk in circles around a pole and over a rope. This ceremony renews the spirit of the people. Most Hmong people celebrate the New Year for two days at a huge festival held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. The two days are filled with many activities and performances. There is Hmong, Thai and

American dancing, people singing in Hmong, English, Laos, and Thai, and



performance competitions. For fun, you can meet new

people, socialize with your friends, play ball toss, eat Hmong food, and dress in Hmong clothes. The New Year is a great time for Hmong people to reunite with old friends and family. For others, it is a great opportunity to learn about the Hmong culture and traditions.

The Madison Hmong New Year celebration is taking place on November 24th and 25th from 8 AM- 5 PM at the Alliant Energy Center. Come and experience one of the Hmong peoples' greatest celebrations!

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Greeting from the Executive Director



By: Alyssa Kenney
Community Survey Results

I am so pleased to share the results of the Kennedy Heights community survey with our readership. Kennedy

Heights residents reviewed the results in October and the survey was the theme at our annual meeting. The results will be used to guide Board decision making, provide information to the management company, and help the neighborhood build an even stronger community.

Successful Annual Meeting

On October 24th the Board of Directors hosted the Neighborhood Association's annual meeting over 35 community members attended, shared dinner, met their neighbors and learned about the community center's achievements over the last year. Jim Powell from the Northside Planning Council facilitated a discussion of the community survey results and door prizes were distributed.

A number of residents echoed the survey's findings regarding community concern over unsupervised children and children on bikes in the parking lot. In 2007, the community center plans to host a series of community discussions around community standards for "Children at Play" Look for more information about this meeting next year.

New Board Members

At our annual meeting Kennedy Heights resident Lacey Vosen joined the Board of Directors and during our November meeting the Board of Directors welcomed Moinare McCain, a middle school student, as a youth advisory member of the Board of Directors. We still have opportunities for Kennedy Heights residents to participate in the Board of Directors—please leave a message for Ramie Leonard, Board Chair at 244-0767 or stop by the community center and talk with Alyssa.

Fall Family Night

The Early Childhood Program and the After School Program co-hosted our Fall Family fun night on October 17th. Over seventy children, parents, volunteers, and Lindbergh staff attended. Participations enjoyed the music of Clare Norelle, a community dinner, bingo, face painting, literacy games, and great prizes. A huge thanks to the Girl Neighborhood Power girls for acting as volunteer hosts throughout the night.

Bucky Books

Kennedy Heights has ten Bucky Books left to sell, they make great holiday gifts and provide needed financial support to Kennedy Heights programs and services. If you would like to purchase one for \$35 please call or e-mail me at 244-0767, ackenny@yahoo.com.

Asian Flower Shaped Cookies and Layer Cake

By VamMeej Yang

The Asian Outreach Program has been learning to make flower shaped cookies and special layer cakes. Chang C. Thao (Niam Nyiaj Thoj) and her daughters have been teaching the cooking class. They have taught tips for making cooking easier and given new ideas to everyone. After three successful cooking workshops everyone knows how to make these special cookies and cake and plans to make it for their family. Chang C Thao will continue to lead cooking classes for a few more months. The classes are the second Saturday of each month from 4:00—6:00 PM at the center. We always welcome new participants, please come and join us.



Los ntawm VamMeej Yang

Peb tau kawm ua khoob noom paj thiab khoob noom ua tej txheej tej txheej nyob rau lub Cuaj hli thiab lub Kaum hli. Chang C. Thao (Niam Nyiaj Thoj) thiab nws ob tug ntxhais lawv npaj tej khoom ua khoob noom no tuaj qhia sawv daws kawm. Cov kev ua khoob noom no tau qhia rau lawv cov kawm paub tau yooj yim heev tias ua li cas ua thiab ua rau cov kawm muaj tswv yim tuaj. Tom qab peb kawm tag lawm, txhua tus hais tias ziag no lawv paub ua khoob noom lawm. Ziag no ces lawm xav ua rau lawv tsev neeg noj thaum lawv muaj party los yeej tsis txhawj lawm. Chang C. Thao tseem yuav qhia lawv ua khoob noom ntxiv mus li ob peb as thiv ntxiv. Peb lub sij hawm yog txhua as thiv thib ob hnuv Saturday 4—6 p.m. Peb sawv daws zoo siab tos txais koj tuaj nrog peb kawm, thov tuaj tuaj koom nrog peb.

News From the Heights



Fall Family Night Photos



Meet Our New AmeriCorps Member

By: Elisa Walker
Hi! My name is Elisa Walker and I have recently joined the Kennedy Heights Community Center as their Americorps member. AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our coun-

try's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps opens the door for citizens to serve in a variety of ways. For me, this takes on the role of programming for youth who attend the Kennedy Heights Community Center.

I am a UW-Madison alumnus

who has spent a considerable amount of time researching and working with traditionally underrepresented individuals, particularly middle school and high school youth. I am very excited to take this position as this is one of my passions. I hope to be a strong addition to the center. Thank you for this opportunity.



Early Childhood Program Update

By: Rachel Fisher
Yeah, winter is here! The Early Childhood Program has some fun things going on in our classroom. The Madison Public Library's "Learning through Play" program has been visiting twice a month. Through this program children are working on the letters in their names and participating in pretend play. The First Book

program is another important partner that comes once a month. They read to the children and then give them books to take home. The Early Childhood Program is very grateful to everyone who comes to help us learn and grow.

The kids are getting excited about the snow, they can not

wait to make snowmen and play in the snow. We are hoping for a snowy winter.

The Early Childhood Program has three openings left in the program. Potty-trained children ages 3—5 are eligible. Please contact me, Rachel at 244-0767 for more information.



We are on the Web!

www.kennedyheightscc.org

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United Way
of Dane County



Girl Scouts

For the last few months the Kennedy Heights Community Center has been hosting a Girl Scout troop for girls ages 5-8. Meetings are held every other Tuesday from 6-7 PM at the center. Together the girls do art projects, cook, dance, and have fun. This is a great opportunity for the younger girls in the community to get to know each other and become involved in the community center. If you know of a girl who may be interested in joining, please contact Emily at 244-0767 or just come to the center during a meeting. Upcoming Girl Scouts dates are Tuesday November 28 and December 12 from 6-7 PM.

Theater & Concert Tickets

By: Jody Schmitz

Kennedy Heights residents have the opportunity this year to attend programs at the Overture Center, the Wisconsin Union Theater and the Madison Repertory Theater. Jody Schmitz is coordinating this program so if you are interested in taking advantage of the theater / music programs, get in touch with her. The best way to contact her is by stopping by the Center on Monday afternoons during the food pantry or by leaving a written message in her mailbox at the community center.

A list of currently available tickets is posted on the community center office door. You can sign up on the list and you will be called if new shows become available. Tickets are limited but are available at no cost or low cost.

Theater and music are great ways to expand your experience and enrich your life.

After School Program

By: True Vang

I wanted to thank all the volunteers and staff for helping make the first quarter of the after school program so successful. We have a third assistant teacher helping us during the program, Pa dwab Vang. She also runs the Freedom Inc. girls' group Go Hmong on Monday nights.

Partnerships help make our program successful. In partnership with the University of Wisconsin the after school program has a Science Club every Monday for second and third grade children. In partnership with the Boys Scouts we have a Life Skills group working with the Kindergarten and first grade children. These partnerships enrich our program.

During the winter the After School Program will continue to spend part of the afternoon outside, so please try to make sure your child has the right clothing for outdoor play. The community center stocks plenty of extra hats, mittens, and scarves for days when children forget.

Just a reminder there will be no after school program November 23rd—24th because of Thanksgiving and December 25—January 5th due to winter break. Also please remember that if school is closed due to weather or if school closes early due to weather the After School Program is also closed.