



# Kennedy Heights Blooms

End-of-Year Edition | Winter 2025



**Elsa Caetano**

Executive Director

## Together, We Give Thanks

*A message from Elsa Caetano, Executive Director*

As 2025 comes to a close, I feel immense gratitude for the families, partners, supporters, and neighbors who make Kennedy Heights Community Center (KHCC) such a vibrant home on Madison's Northside. This year, we strengthened programs for children and teens, deepened our outreach to families, and laid important groundwork for future senior support services shaped by resident voices.

Thank you for your care for this community, for supporting safety and dignity, and for walking with us as we continue building a hopeful, thriving future together.

With gratitude,  
Elsa

---

## Top Ten Ways Our Community Shines in 2025!

(Also known as KHCC's 2025 accomplishments!)

**10. You helped block parties bloom.** Over 300 residents came together this year to celebrate community, connection, and belonging.

**9. Kids thrived at Summer Camp.** More than 50 youth (ages 5–15) spent nine weeks building skills through creative arts, daily reading support, gardening, leadership activities, and fun field trips, water days, and games with friends.

**8. Our pantry stayed open when families needed it most.** That includes serving 70–80 households biweekly with fresh produce and staple foods.

7. **Our youth continue to grow into leaders.** KHCC provided free, year-round after-school and restorative programs for approximately 30 children and teens.

6. **Families found stability right here at home.** KHCC supported 100+ households with education, wraparound services, and basic needs.

5. **Older Adults made their voices heard.** Through surveys and outreach, they guided KHCC's priorities in transportation, food access, and supportive services, helping address urgent needs at Kennedy Heights and surrounding neighborhoods.

4. **Partnerships grew stronger and wider.** KHCC deepened and expanded collaborations with TruStage, Evjue Foundation, Community Shares of Wisconsin, Second Harvest, Rooted, Troy Gardens, Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens, Madison Community Foundation, and the City of Madison.

2. **Community resilience kept shining.** KHCC reached more than 400 residents through programs, meals, workshops, and events—neighbors lifting neighbors through challenging times.

1. **We invited the community to help us financially.** Launching the inaugural Kennedy Heights Blooms in July, this winter edition represents our accomplishments for 2025 and why every act of generosity makes an immediate difference for youth, families, and older adults.





---

## Accessible Van Campaign Update

We're excited to share important progress in our campaign to purchase an **accessible van** to better serve our **adult and older adult neighbors with limited physical abilities**. Reliable, accessible transportation will help more community members stay connected to programs, appointments, wellness opportunities, and gatherings at Kennedy Heights Community Center.

We are deeply grateful for the generous support we've received so far from **Madison Community Foundation, Lau and Bea Christensen**, and the **Oscar Rennebohm Foundation**. Their donations are moving us closer to our goal of making an accessible van purchase in **2026**, and we will continue fundraising throughout 2026 to bring this vision fully to life.

At the same time, transportation remains an urgent need across our programs: our **youth 15-passenger vans are nearing 20 years old** and increasingly need repair and replacement to keep our year-round youth programming on the road. Thank you to everyone who has donated, shared our campaign, or encouraged this effort—your support helps ensure people of all ages can participate, thrive, and belong at Kennedy Heights.

---



## Welcome New Board Member: Officer Lucien “Lu” Senatus

We are thrilled to introduce Lucien “Lu” Senatus, who joined the KHCC Board in November 2025. Lu is a proud Northsider, a Madison Police Officer, a father of two daughters, and a longtime partner to KHCC.

Lu first connected with our center through the CORE team, and he and Elsa co-created Pizza with Police—now a beloved monthly gathering that builds connection and trust between residents and law enforcement.

His insight and community presence make him an invaluable addition to KHCC’s leadership.

### Lu Senatus

Board Member

---

## Ways to Support Kennedy Heights

*Giving is simple—and deeply appreciated.*

- Donate online: Visit our website and click Donate to support youth, families, food access, safety, and senior services.
- Mail a gift: 199 Kennedy Heights, Madison, WI 53704
- Give by phone: (608) 244-0767
- Employer matches welcome: Check whether your workplace matches charitable contributions.
- Volunteer: Support youth programs, meals, events, or garden projects.

**Thank you for being part of the Kennedy Heights family. Here’s to a bright and connected 2026—  
together, we bloom.**



**venmo**