



# MADISON MATTERS



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## NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH



Every day at Madison Square Boys & Girls Club, mentors are making a difference. After all, when you feel safe, you can be yourself. When you're listened to, you're more likely to speak up. And when there's an adult in your life who believes in you, the world feels full of possibilities. Madison staff are trained

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JANUARY  
2024



MADISON SQUARE  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

# YOUTH SUMMIT

## *Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy*



In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Madison hosted a youth summit, focused on celebrating Dr. King's legacy and creating a space for teens to learn community, career and college insights. Our teen members were recognized for their amazing academic and character achievements, and the afternoon continued with discussions covering social justice, the music industry and entrepreneurialism.

For teens interested in business, the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Panel covered groundbreaking innovations in fashion design, eCommerce and consumer relations. Our youth were able to ask the panelists questions, such as "what do I need to study in school to break into fashion?" and "what do you wish you had known before starting your own business?"

The afternoon continued with a performance and a panel focused on music and entertainment. Many Madison members are active in our Clubhouses' Notes for Notes Studios, writing, recording and producing their own music and podcasts. Our teens were thrilled to learn more about the behind-the-scenes professionals in the music industry, to meet artists working in New York City and to have the opportunity to ask musicians and producers how they got where they are.

Connecting directly back to Dr. King's legacy, the afternoon concluded with a panel on community and social justice, featuring Madison's own Antonio Fort, Director of Clubhouse Operations. In making the content realistic and actionable for teens, panelists focused on youth justice, building community and how to find and create hope no matter what. Panelists and teens discussed current issues facing Madison's communities, from gang violence to poverty to food injustice, and through hard conversations, talked about solutions and ways to create real, lasting change.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to provide our members with stimulating conversations and impactful events such as this. We want to say thank you to donors like you. Your commitment is crucial in our ability to continue shaping and supporting the futures of talented young minds.



**Teen members from Harlem, Brooklyn and the Bronx attended panels on music, social justice and more.**



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### **January is National Mentoring Month**

professionals committed to empowering youth to reach their full potential. They're a listening ear, a cheering squad, a nudge in a new direction. They show up day after day to help kids know their value and use their voices.

From heart-to-hearts over ping-pong to preparing teens for that first job interview, mentors are there through good days and bad and all the decisions in between. Join us in celebrating National Mentoring Month and celebrating all of our amazing Madison mentors! We are so grateful for all that you do to support our Madison members each and every day.





# CELEBRATING MADISON STAFF

## **Recent Staff Highlights & Accomplishments**

In honor of National Mentoring month, we are excited to share some recent accomplishments of our Madison staff, who work tirelessly to provide our members with safe and empowering spaces to call home. Their presence acts as a constant in the lives of NYC kids and teens, some of whom see constant change outside of the Club. **To all our amazing Madison Mentors – thank you!**

At our Pinkerton Clubhouse in Harlem, we are celebrating two staff whose friendly faces you're sure to see every day at the Club. For Jason Garcia, Pinkerton Clubhouse Director, 2024 marks his 5-year anniversary as Club Director. Jason's work spans from Pinkerton Clubhouse's opening day through the COVID-19 pandemic. He has worked tirelessly, from supporting members in the transition to online programming at the height of the pandemic to welcoming youth back in person and navigating everything in between. His commitment to serving the Harlem community where he himself grew up is an amazing testament to his character and dedication to mentoring kids and teens.



**Pinkerton Clubhouse Director Jason Garcia (right).**



**Sara Galarza (left) assists members in learning how to bake cakes and cupcakes.**

Our second Pinkerton staff is Sara Galarza, who is settling in to her new position as Teen Campus Director at the Clubhouse. Promoted from Explorer Director, Sara has worked with Madison for six years and has shown her unwavering dedication to fostering a positive and supportive culture for youth and helping kids and teens achieve academic excellence. Her innate ability to connect with all Madison members makes her an invaluable mentor and team member.



Over in Brooklyn, we are celebrating Jahreek Beatty for his 1-year anniversary as the Elbaum Family Clubhouse Site Director. Jahreek has brought the Clubhouse to life, building strong relationships with the principals and administration of the schools housed in the Club building. Last year, 2023, marked the Clubhouse's first summer of programming, and Jahreek notes it as a big success. Teens were welcomed into the Club to find a safe and engaging space to beat the summer heat and connect with new friends. Jahreek's presence at the Club has helped build a strong and thriving mentor-based community for teens in Brownsville.

Up in the Bronx, we are excited to celebrate and welcome two Madison staff members. At the Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse, Stephanie Uruga was recently promoted to Education Director. Moving from Explorer Academy Group Leader at the Pinkerton Clubhouse in Harlem, Stephanie is excited to hit the ground running, creating new engaging and educational projects for ages 6 to 18 and providing individual guidance and referrals to members in our Bronx communities.

And finally, we are thrilled to welcome the newest member to the Madison family, Jasmin Brown, Director of the John E. Grimm III Clubhouse! A Bronx native, Jasmin brings over 10 years of experience as a youth development professional and is excited to act as a mentor and team leader at the Club. She is looking forward to continue making an impact in the lives of kids and teens and to support those growing up in the Bronx.

We send our deepest thanks to our incredible Madison staff members. Your work is changing the lives of kids and teens across New York City, and your dedication to helping them thrive is unmatched. Thank you for being a beacon of hope, a helping hand and an ever-present cheerleader for our 3,000 members each and every day.



JANUARY  
2024



MADISON SQUARE  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

# MADISON TURNS 140!

This year, 2024, marks Madison Square Boys & Girls Club's 140 birthday! We are thrilled to celebrate all that we have accomplished together over the past nearly century and a half, and we cannot wait to see all that is to come in the next 140 years.

As we ring in 140 years, we also want to celebrate Madison's newest Board Members who have stepped forward to help make Madison's future shine even brighter. We are thrilled to welcome Derek Ferguson, Kristina Hunt, Erek Nimphius, Walter Owens and Thalia Smith as Members of the Corporation. These five represent a wide range of industries and are bringing fresh perspectives to our leadership.

Derek Ferguson, Chief Administrative Officer at TIAA, joined Madison's mission in 2023. He praises Madison for its strengths in supporting communities across NYC, demonstrating strong leadership and for the number of kids and teens served each year.

Kristina Hunt, Vice President of U.S. Premium Products at American Express, also joined Madison in 2023. She is especially fond of Madison's Youth of the Year Dinner, noting how powerful it is to hear Madison's teen members share their stories. Kristina served as co-chair of the 2023 Christmas Tree Ball, helping to make the evening an inspirational and successful welcome to the holiday season.

Erek Nimphius, Vice President at Brown Brothers Harriman, has been involved with Madison since 2014. Serving as the Co-President of Madison Council from 2017 to 2021, Erek joined as a Member of the Corporation in 2023. He notes Youth of the Year as an impactful event that annually reinvigorates his drive to support Madison's mission.

Walter Owens, Chief Executive Officer at Man Varagon, joined Madison's mission in 2022, becoming a Member in 2023. Serving as a Youth of the Year judge in 2023, Walter learned of the Club's impact firsthand and was inspired by Madison's teen members' stories of resilience and personal growth.

Thalia Smith, Partner at Deloitte & Touche LLP and Partner Sponsor for Deloitte's MADE (Making Accounting Diverse and Equitable) Commitment, became involved with Madison's mission in 2023, joining as a Member of the Corporation the same year. Her drive for supporting Madison comes from a passion for mentorship and helping develop the next generation of leaders.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting kids and teens in New York City, and send our thanks to you, our Madison family, for your amazing commitment to uplifting the youth of NYC yesterday, today and tomorrow!

JANUARY  
2024



MADISON SQUARE  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



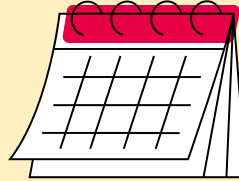
Madison Council's 5th Annual  
**MARDI GRAS**  
MAD-SQUERADE  
3-Hour Open Bar & Hors D'oeuvres

March 1 | 8:00 PM  
Tanner Smith's  
204 W 55th St, New York, NY

**Madison Council Mardi Gras**  
March 1, 2024

**Youth of the Year**  
May 15, 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS



*Click invites  
to register!*



**SAVE THE  
DATE**

MAY 15  
2024

PIER SIXTY, CHELSEA PIERS



THE 11TH ANNUAL  
**YOUTH OF THE YEAR  
DINNER**

## LEAVE A LEGACY



**Click here to  
learn more!**



Interested in learning more about how to make a lasting impact in the lives of children?

Contact Anna Phewa, senior director of individual donor partnerships of Madison Square Boys & Girls Club Foundation, at [aphewa@madisonsquarefoundation.org](mailto:aphewa@madisonsquarefoundation.org).