



NEWS FROM THE CENTER

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024



Director's Note

Thank you to our incredible partners, staff, stakeholders, and donors—your unwavering support made 2024 a remarkable year of impact and growth. Your dedication and generosity have empowered us to create meaningful opportunities, strengthen our programs, and uplift our community. Together, we've not only made a difference but also built a foundation for an even brighter future.

We are deeply grateful for your commitment and look forward to continuing this journey with you in 2025!

Elsa Caetano



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This month was shorter due to the holiday break, but we packed it with enriching and engaging activities! We began with focused academic time, where our group demonstrated a strong drive to expand their knowledge. Our efforts centered on completing homework, enhancing literacy comprehension, and fostering creative thinking.

Despite the shortened schedule, we explored several fascinating science topics. A UW-Madison psychology student introduced us to the concept of camouflage in prey animals. The activity included coloring butterflies and blending them into their surroundings—a fun and educational experience! UW-Madison astronomy students joined us to teach about star temperatures and their colors, deepening our understanding of the universe.

We also welcomed UW-Madison research students, who shared insights on energy conservation and climate change, teaching us how to reduce waste and protect our environment. The UW-Madison entomology team visited as well, showcasing both local and international insects. From pinned beetles, bees, and butterflies to a live tobacco cutworm, we learned how these creatures benefit our ecosystems.



A highlight of the month was a visit from Lussier Family Heritage Center staff, where we dissected owl pellets to uncover tiny bones—an unforgettable, hands-on experience we'd love to repeat! Our read-aloud sessions during snack time included "There Was an Old Scientist Who Swallowed a Dinosaur" and "The Wolf Who Learned to Be Good."

In addition to academics, we explored creative hobbies like crocheting, guided by a talented Kennedy Heights resident. Other activities included bike riding, dancing, gymnastics, hairstyling with doll heads, and arts and crafts.

We wrapped up the year with plenty of holiday cheer! At our Holiday Party for program families, we enjoyed pizza, decorated cookies, played Bingo, and created holiday-themed art. The season culminated with a trip to the Madison Concourse Hotel for the Children's Holiday Party, where we decorated a wooden Christmas tree, indulged in a festive dinner, made cookies, and captured memories with Santa and the Grinch.

This month was a fantastic blend of learning, creativity, and celebration—a wonderful way to end the year!

The Teens

continued their popular Cooking Club, delighting in creating and savoring a creamy, delicious mac-n-cheese. It was a hit with everyone!

We also welcomed UW-Madison astronomy students, who guided us through a fascinating activity about the moon. We explored why the moon has different phases and how craters are formed—an interactive and eye-opening experience that left us all a bit more curious about the cosmos.

Our visits to the Warner Park Community Recreation Center continued to be a highlight. We enjoyed a variety of activities, including basketball, football, volleyball, ping-pong, billiards, foosball, and video games. These visits also provided opportunities to team up with students from other schools and community centers for collaborative and competitive fun.

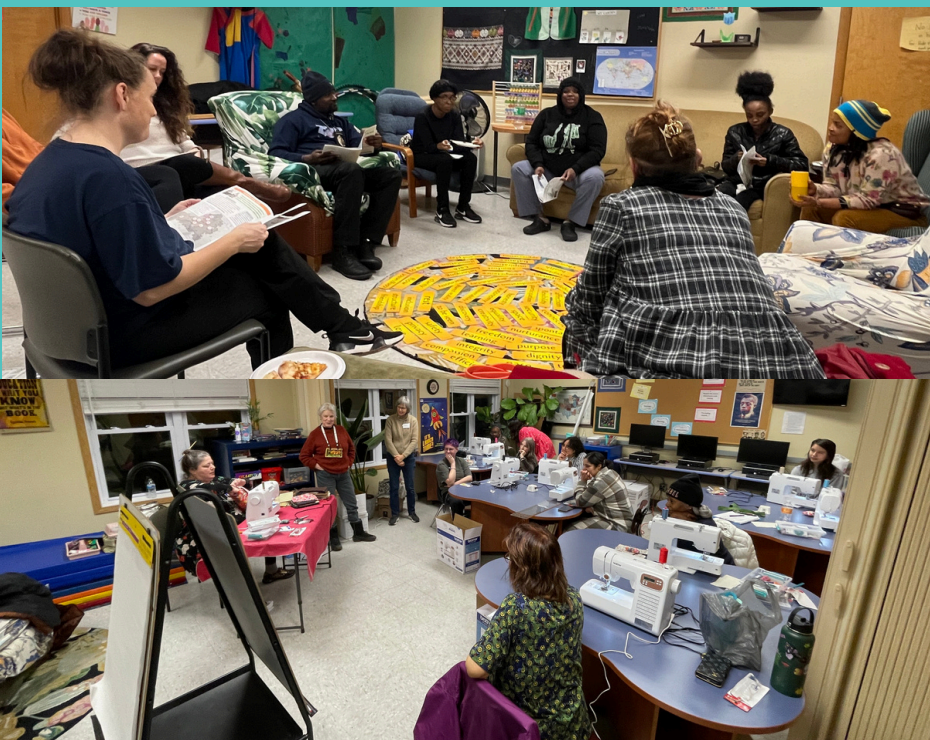
One of the most memorable moments this month was a winter visit from the Lussier Family Heritage Center staff. Together with the elementary group, we dissected owl pellets, discovering tiny bones and learning about the diet of these fascinating birds. The activity was both educational and awe-inspiring!

As the year wrapped up, we spent time brainstorming ideas for the new year. The group came up with an exciting list of Cooking Club recipes, science experiments, and health and wellness activities that we can't wait to dive into.

We're looking forward to restarting our programming after the holiday break, refreshed and ready for more adventures and learning in the year ahead!



We expanded our adult programs by offering weekly fitness classes in partnership with Johnny Winston CARES, with a resident and staff member now co-leading sessions, and launched a 9-week intergenerational sewing class where participants, ages 17 to 68, will receive sewing machines upon completion. Additionally, we hosted a teen-led weekly crochet class and transformed our Pizza and Bingo with Police into Community Conversations with Bingo and Pizza, incorporating Nonviolent Communication practices and connecting residents with local resources and partners.



OFFICE CONTACT INFO & HOURS

199 Kennedy Heights | Phone: (608) 244-0767 | Fax: (608) 661-9190
 director@khcommunitycenter.org | office@khcommunitycenter.org
 School Year Hours: Monday 9:30 AM–5:30 PM
 Tuesdays 9:30 AM–6:30 PM
 Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays hours: 9:30 AM–7:00 PM
 Summer Hours: Monday–Friday 9:30 AM–5:30 PM
 Computer Lab Open: Monday–Friday 9 AM - close
 Closed: Holidays and most days that Madison Metropolitan School District closes (call to see if we are open @608.24420767

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Most Mondays Food Pantry from 8:30-11 AM (No Pantry 1/20)
- Wednesdays Fitness Classes from 6-7 PM
- Mid day Yoga with Elsa Most Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:30 PM
 - Call to register @608.244.0767
- Board Meeting Every fourth Wednesday of the month 5:30-6:30 PM
- Community Meetings with Pizza and Bingo Last Thursday of the Month 5:30-7 PM
- Joining Forces for Families (JFF) Social Worker on Site Each Wednesday from 9:30 AM-2 PM

OUR PARTNERS

