MEET OUR 2019 YOUTH OF THE YEAR!
The success of our programs and the impact of our supporters are best seen within the walls of our Clubhouses. Each member provides a unique look into the importance of our mission: to save and enhance the lives of New York City youth.

We are always excited to highlight outstanding members from each of our Clubhouses. This season’s newsletter offers a brief look into the lives of some of the youth that have become exemplary members of the Madison community. We are proud to share their stories as we call on them to serve as ambassadors for the organization through leadership and mentorship. Our 2019 Youth of the Year ambassadors are emblematic of our mission; they have overcome many obstacles in order to stand before us today. They have utilized our programs and our Clubhouses to their fullest potential, and because of that, are able to imagine a future that before seemed unimaginable. We are honored to stand by them as they embark on the next chapter of their journey.

This year will mark one of Madison’s biggest milestones. The opening of the Pinkerton Clubhouse set for this summer, the renovations that are being completed at our existing Clubhouses, and the exciting special events on the horizon will contribute to this transformative year. Thank you for all you do to make Madison a home away from home for more than 5,000 youth in New York City each year. It is with your support that all of this is made possible.

Warmest regards,

Tim McChristian
The Faces of the Pinkerton Clubhouse

As always, Madison is committed to serving New York City neighborhoods where young people need us most. Madison’s fifth Clubhouse, Pinkerton, is making history as our largest and most advanced facility, as well as the new home of our administrative headquarters. Located in the Bradhurst neighborhood of Harlem, the Pinkerton Clubhouse will provide critical resources and opportunities to a historically under-resourced community. The Clubhouse will be home to various educational spaces, a rooftop athletic field, and performing arts spaces. We checked in with our Clubhouse leaders to get an inside look at why these new roles are so special to them.

Left side:

Jason Garcia,
Pinkerton Clubhouse Director

Hometown: New York, NY (Washington Heights)
College: Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry Campus)
Graduation Year: 2002

Favorite thing about Madison?
Knowing that all our staff members are committed to improving the lives of the members at their respective Clubhouses.

What are you most excited about in the new Clubhouse?
I am excited to see how the community embraces and supports our new Clubhouse. In addition, I am most excited to see how the members utilize our music studio!

Right side:

Alicia Thomas-Partee,
Pinkerton Assistant Clubhouse Director

Hometown: The Bronx, NY
College: Mercy College, MS Organizational Leadership
Graduation Year: 2010

Favorite thing about Madison?
My favorite thing about Madison is that our Clubs are a safe haven for members and our dedicated staff is committed to the mission of Madison.

What are you most excited about in the new Clubhouse?
I am excited to open our doors to the Harlem community, to see the smiles on our members’ faces, and to hear the halls and program areas full of laughter because our members are having fun in a safe environment.
The Youth of the Year Program Fosters Good Character & Citizenship

The Youth of the Year program celebrates the remarkable lives of Madison Square Boys & Girls Club members who have distinguished themselves by rising above challenging circumstances. Finalists are chosen from each of our four Clubhouses based on moral character, community involvement, academic achievements, and obstacles they have overcome.

Sarahfina Cunningham, 17
Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse
Member: 7 Years
Future Plans: Film Director

“Not every superhero wears a cape; sometimes it’s a blue vest.”

Linda Warrington, 17
Navy Yard Clubhouse
Member: 4 Years
Future Plans: Forensic Psychology

“We all don’t have a perfect past, but we should not let that define our future.”

Perla Flores, 18
Columbus Clubhouse
Member: 11 Years
Future Plans: Undecided; Planning to attend college, study abroad, and intern!

Edith Valerio, 17
Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse
Member: 10 Years
Future Plans: Marketing

“The Club took me at my worst and gave me the world.”
Preparing for the Future

Madison Square Boys & Girls Club is committed to ensuring that every member leaves the Club academically ready, a leader, fit and healthy, and a high-school graduate with short and long-term goals for future success. To this end, we prioritize opportunities that prepare youth for the future workforce.

Madison’s program, Career Launch, encourages career exploration, promotes skill development, and fosters work-based learning experiences through fun and engaging activities. Designed with a robust curriculum, Career Launch teaches members how to find jobs that are both interesting to them and a good match for their skills. The program also includes a job readiness component, which is designed to help participants succeed in the workplace. These sessions focus on making career decisions, résumé preparation, interview skills, maintaining punctual attendance, presenting a professional appearance, interpersonal skills, and completing tasks effectively.

Another employment program for teens and new high-school graduates, Madison’s Group Leader initiative employs youth to work in the Clubhouses with younger members throughout the academic year and during the summer. Interested candidates, typically existing Clubhouse members, develop their resumes, apply for these positions, and go through a standard hiring process. Supervisors also provide coaching to help participants learn basic skills such as financial literacy, organizational skills, attention to detail, leadership skills, and navigating a work environment.

An exciting part of Madison’s Youth of the Year Program includes assistance and guidance in securing those essential internship placements that help to build our members knowledge base. If Youth of the Year ambassadors remain close to NYC after graduation, Madison’s staff works with alumni to find and secure internships over the summer and during college. These experiences are often a first step in building professional networks for our members.

With Madison’s arrival to the Harlem community, we are excited to announce that we have been awarded a contract from New York City’s Department of Youth and Community Development to run the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), specifically pursuing teens living in the Polo Grounds Housing Complex, located right across the street from our new Pinkerton Clubhouse.

Through our participation in SYEP, Madison will place 300 teens in either project-based work experiences or actual internships for six weeks during the summer. SYEP underscores Madison’s commitment to helping members prepare for the future workforce by providing them the skills, tools, and experiences they need to succeed. We look forward to recruiting these teens and building strong partnerships with local employers in the process to make this program a success.
A Dream Clubhouse:
The Garden of Dreams Foundation Renovates our Columbus Clubhouse

Since August 2014, the Garden of Dreams Foundation has committed to creating opportunities for our members. In conjunction with our Building Hope Campaign, the Garden of Dreams Foundation played a critical role in renovating our existing Clubhouses. One such example, our Columbus Clubhouse underwent a major evolution and has flourished into a fully transformed space. A large part of this project was made possible by a $1.7 million dollar grant from the Garden of Dreams Giving Program, the largest grant gifted by the Foundation for a single project. Garden of Dreams works with all areas of the Madison Square Garden Company and MSG Networks to bring magic to children who need it most.

The refurbishment of the Clubhouse includes a brand new state-of-the-art gymnasium, locker room, arts and crafts room and multipurpose room. Floor-to-ceiling upgrades include new lighting, flooring, technology and the creation of a dance studio. The Columbus Clubhouse, along with all of our other Clubhouses, also received a new music studio, in partnership with Notes for Notes, where children will have the opportunity to learn about careers in the music industry. These exciting renovations were celebrated at a fun-filled ribbon-cutting ceremony last December. From spontaneous musical performances to NY Rangers players holding hockey demonstrations, the celebration was nothing short of show-stopping! The celebration included some special guests such as Darryl McDaniels from RunDMC, Rapper A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, players from the NY Rangers and NY Knicks, as well as the Knicks City Dancers.

Located in the Fordham section of the Bronx, the Columbus Clubhouse has seen an increase in member enrollment and participation since the renovation. The new gymnasium has inspired the creation of a new girls basketball team, as well as helped launch movie and family nights. The arts and crafts room has begun fostering a fashion design program and because of other new spaces, members have been able to participate in even more engaging programs. We are excited to have this opportunity to grow and make an even bigger impact in the Fordham neighborhood. These additions are opening up a whole new world to our members and allowing them to dream bigger.

Thank you to The Garden of Dreams Foundation for its incredible partnership and generosity!
On Friday, November 30, 2018, more than 500 friends of Madison gathered at Cipriani 42nd Street to celebrate the holidays and wrap-up another year of empowering 5,000 children from New York City’s most under-resourced neighborhoods. The evening raised more than $1.3 million to support our mission to save and enhance the lives of New York City youth. Guests were treated to special performances by members from the Columbus Clubhouse and Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse. We were proud to have a Smilow Clubhouse teen, Matthew Centeno, serve as the Master of Ceremonies and 2018 Youth of the Year Ambassador, Grace Assabil-Bentum, returned as our special guest speaker. A special thank you to all who supported and attended!

Mark Your Calendars!

Youth of the Year Dinner: May 22, 2019
Bronx Grand Gala: June 13, 2019
A Night at Yankee Stadium: July 19, 2019
Fore the Kids Golf Tournament: July 29, 2019
53rd Annual Christmas Tree Ball: December 6, 2019

For more information, or to purchase tickets to any of our upcoming events, please contact our Director of Communications & Special Events Gabby Schiraldi at gschiraldi@madisonsquare.org or 212.760.9600 ext. 0485.
The mission of Madison Square Boys & Girls Club is to save and enhance the lives of New York City boys and girls who by means of economic and/or social factors are most in need of its services.

Thank you to our 2019 Youth of the Year Sponsors!

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