At Madison Square Boys & Girls Club, we believe success is a celebration. As spring approaches, we are excited to highlight outstanding members from each of our four Clubhouses who exemplify what it means to be successful, in a unique and personal way. This season’s newsletter offers a brief look into the lives of some of the youth that have become outstanding members of the Madison community and we are proud to share their stories as we call on them to serve as ambassadors for the organization through leadership and mentorship. Our 2017 Youth of the Year; Anastasia, Kevon, Victoria, and Ashley, provide a diverse glimpse into what we believe epitomizes achievement.

While we always aim to revere the accomplishments of our members, we continue to promote the growth of our community both within and outside of our four Clubhouses. Whether through donations, volunteering, or both, there are many ways to become involved. One such group is the Madison Council, which brings together an up and coming class of young professionals, united by a strong belief in the values and mission on which Madison stands.

Enhancing the lives of all youth in our communities continues to be the driving force behind all we do.

The dedication of friends and supporters like you is not only important to the growth and success of our members, it is essential. Thank you for your continued belief in the mission of Madison. We look forward to welcoming you to become a part of some of the exciting initiatives we have planned, outlined in the pages ahead.

Warmest Regards,

Joseph Patuleia
MEET OUR 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

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 our four Clubhouses based on moral character, community involvement, academic achievements, and obstacles that they have overcome.

Anastasia Dosunmu
Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse
Member: 3 years
Age: 18
Future Plans: Nurse

“When I first joined the Clubhouse, I was not social. Being at the Clubhouse allowed me to meet staff, work with the children, and get to know teens, who are now my friends. Without the Thomas S. Murphy Clubhouse, I would not have learned how to be more outgoing, deal with others, and improve myself as an individual.”

Victoria Sanchez
Columbus Clubhouse
Member: 11 years
Age: 17
Future Plans: Pediatric Nurse

“You can accomplish anything as long as you have the confidence and support. The Columbus Clubhouse is my support.”

Kevon Jerome Leary
Navy Yard Clubhouse
Member: 10 years
Age: 17
Future Plans: Professional Athlete

“When I officially joined the Clubhouse I was a kid. I was 10 years old. I didn’t realize at that time how much I would need the Club. Once I began to experience tragedy in my life, the Clubhouse became the place that helped me stay on track. I come to the Clubhouse still because it provides me a safe place to come and be with my friends and to play basketball. The mentors at the Clubhouse really care.”

Ashley Wallen
Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse
Member: 2 years
Age: 18
Future Plans: Teacher

“To me, the Clubhouse is a place where I can find clarity and peace of mind. When my mom lost her job and my world began to crumble, the Club was where I found the support and strength that I needed to build myself back up. Thanks to the Club, I now know that I can overcome any obstacle that may await me in the road ahead. I am determined to reach my goal of becoming a teacher, and I won’t let anything stand in the way of my success!”
SPOTLIGHT ON:
Explorers Academy Member Amir M.

Amir M. is a 9 year old member at the Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse. He is part of the Explorers Academy, which groups members ages 6 to 9 and aims to ignite a lifelong love of learning by providing cross-disciplinary learning opportunities to reinforce critical literacy and math skills. Explorers Academy members rotate through activities in groups of no more than ten under the instruction of a designated Group Leader who guides them through a structured framework of social recreation, physical fitness, arts, and academic learning opportunities.

When Amir started attending the Club two years ago he was very shy and introverted. Since attending he has blossomed out of his shell into a social butterfly. Amir has also taken a hand in helping his group mates during Power Hour, especially with their math homework which is his favorite subject in school. Power Hour is held daily at each Clubhouse and focuses exclusively on homework help to help raise academic proficiencies.

Amir’s willingness to aid his group and his good willingness to do and show positive actions has also pushed him to be Explorer of the Month for 4th grade several times. Amir was even names Explorer of the Year for 2015 and 2016. His favorite part of the Club is playing different sports in the gym. When he grows up he aspires to be a professional football player.
Fostering High Self-Esteem and Empowerment

This past March, our Murphy Clubhouse celebrated what it means to be confident, elegant, and courageous. Rhonda Williams, Director of the Arts at Murphy, orchestrated the 2017 Miss and Mister Murphy Pageant, and it was met with overwhelming enthusiasm.

To participate, all members submitted a short essay response explaining why they wanted to be a part of the pageant, why they love their Clubhouse, and how they would change the world if given the opportunity. The second step in participation was lending time and service around the Murphy community and Clubhouse, including various tasks like Clubhouse cleanup, assisting Group Leaders with activities, and working at the front desk. The first sixteen members of each age group to complete their essays, community service hours, and receive parental consent were offered an official spot in the pageant.

The lucky contestants prepared for three categories of competition: Cultural, Talent, and Question and Answer. The Cultural category allowed the members to celebrate the background and culture that has made them who they are. Members donned traditional garments and explained why their heritage and culture was important to them. Upon completion, members quickly changed into some of their favorite clothes and displayed an array of talents and skills. With members changing one last time into elegant evening attire, the final round consisted of a question and answer segment, highlighting members’ personal experiences with the Club, how they want to change the world, and their aspirations.

Following the final segment, a panel of five judges, with varying backgrounds and Club experience, deliberated and assessed each contestant based on their confidence, skills, and values. The members were then ushered back to the stage to hear who would be next Little Miss and Mister Murphy for Explorers, ages 6-9, and Miss and Mister Murphy for Juniors and Teens, ages 10-18.

We are pleased to share the 2017 results and celebrate all of our brave Clubhouse members that participated!

**Explorers:**
- Winners: 3rd graders Neziyah and Jordhan
- Runners-up: 1st grader, Zoey & 2nd grader, Jadon

**Juniors and Teens:**
- Winner: 11 year old Leah
- Runners-Up: 14 year old Annicia
On Friday, December 1st, 2016, more than 450 friends of Madison gathered at Cipriani 42nd Street to celebrate another year of empowering more than 5,000 children from New York City’s most under-resourced neighborhoods. The evening raised over $1 million to support our mission to save and enhance the lives of New York City youth. Guests were treated to a special performance by the Columbus Clubhouse dance team and singers. We were proud to have our 2016 Youth of the Year Chassidy David serve as the Mistress of Ceremonies. A special thank you to all who sponsored and attended!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A Salute to Style Luncheon:
May 16, 2017

A Night at Yankee Stadium:
June 20, 2017

Golf Tournament:
August 7, 2017

Bronx Grand Gala:
June 8, 2017

Christmas Tree Ball:
December 1, 2017

For more information, or to purchase tickets to any of our upcoming events, please call our Director of Special Events, Lauren Downing at 212.760.0074.
We believe in the future of New York City’s youth. And at the heart of what we do are our Clubhouses.

Throughout our history, Madison has provided places for young New Yorkers to thrive and to belong. Today, we are undertaking a campaign to expand our services to Harlem and to renovate and refresh our Clubhouses in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

For some years, Madison has sought to address an acute and growing need in Harlem, specifically north Central Harlem, where a large youth population faces poverty, drugs, gangs, violence and lack of opportunity on a daily basis. In 2013, Madison acquired space at 155th Street and Bradhurst Avenue with a plan to build a new state-of-the-art Clubhouse. Now, as we approach the groundbreaking of that Clubhouse - our fifth and largest - it is important to recognize our success so far as we reflect on the work that still lies ahead.

To date, we have secured $72 million of our campaign goal of $90 million. Gifts to the campaign fund capital improvements at our existing Clubhouses, finance the construction of our new Harlem Clubhouse, and augment our endowment to secure opportunity for future generations.

Madison was warmly welcomed by the Harlem community this past autumn at a reception at Minton’s in Central Harlem, sponsored by its owners, Dick Parsons and Alexander Smalls. With site work now underway, we look forward to continuing to share our mission and project with the neighborhood and community, and to celebrating at an official groundbreaking ceremony in May.

To learn more about these initiatives, visit www.madisonsquare.org/campaign or email campaign@madisonsquare.org.
733 Third Avenue, Floor 2, New York, New York 10017

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 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR SPONSORS!

HEROES

MENTORS

BARCLAYS