Madison Square Boys & Girls Club will host its 8th Annual Youth of the Year event as a week-long virtual event experience in support of our COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund. As a result of the pandemic, Youth of the Year will pivot from a typical gala event to a virtual celebration for the safety of our young members and Madison supporters. Youth of the Year Week will celebrate four youth who have overcome enormous odds, demonstrated exceptional character and shown incredible resiliency as a result of Madison’s support. It is the premier national recognition program for Club members and is the highest honor a Club member can achieve.

The program promotes service to the Club, community and family, academic success, strong moral character, life goals, poise and public speaking ability. Madison’s Clubhouses choose one outstanding youth to represent their Clubhouse.
Of those youth, one is chosen as the overall Madison Square Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

We look forward to the opportunity to come together as a virtual family to celebrate the incredible resiliency of our Youth of the Year and share their stories. The event will raise much needed funding for our COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund – helping our Youth of the Year and thousands of others we serve prepare for the future at a time of unprecedented uncertainty.

**When:** Monday May 18th – Friday, May 22, 2020

**How to join:** Register today on www.madisonsquare.org/yoy.

**How to support:** Attend the virtual event, share with your network, and consider making a gift to support Madison’s mission.

**More information:** Contact Gabby Schiraldi: GSchiraldi@madisonsquare.org

Thank you to our sponsors!
FAQ

Q: What will the virtual event experience entail?
A: The schedule for the week is below! Each day new messaging/content will be available on the virtual event page, madisonyoy.givesmart.com, including messages from our executives, supporters, celebrity friends, and most importantly our Youth of the Year!

Q: Do we have to register to attend?
A: While registration is not technically required it is highly encouraged! We want everyone to be able to attend, share the event with your network and enjoy. Registering guarantees you'll receive the full breadth of communication and content that week!

Q: Do I have to be on the site at a specific time to view the content?
A: No! Each day the content will be up for you to view all day in order to make it easier for attendees to view on their own time.

Q: Where do the funds from donations go for this event?
A: All funds raised for this event will go to our COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund. This fund allows us to retain our staff members and continue putting on great Virtual Afterschool Programming for the over 5,000 youth that we serve.
Madison’s mission has never been more critical. The crisis has negatively affected the entire global community – but currently, the hardest hit are those living in the most under-resourced neighborhoods in the current epicenter of the pandemic, New York City. The virus is ravaging neighborhoods like the Bronx and Brooklyn, where cases are disproportionately higher and community members are more likely to be either out of work, unable to work remotely, or faced with a difficult choice to attend work and endanger their families. Our Clubhouses are right in the middle of these neighborhoods as seen on the map below.
At a time of so much tragedy and uncertainty, Madison’s role in the lives of our members – as a source of community, a resource for guidance and security, and a vehicle for connecting with opportunity – is more crucial than ever before. Despite being forced to temporarily shut our Clubhouse doors, Madison is stepping up to meet the moment: serving as a hub of resources and information, providing virtual programming from each Clubhouse, and working around-the-clock to continue our mission to support our members and their families.

Our Virtual Afterschool Programming (VAP) is up and running and has been extremely well-received by our members and their families. The attendance numbers continue to increase every week and the activities being done are both useful and educational. Our Virtual Afterschool Programming is being broken into Teen Lounge, Academic Support, Health & Wellness, and Recreation/Arts & Crafts. The goal for Teen Lounge is to give teens opportunities to socialize, have fun, make new friends and to feel inclined to stay with us until we close for the day while participating in safe and productive activities. This includes playing & singing music, fitness, movies,
the word of the day, board games, poetry & dance and more. Along the way they develop their reading, writing, vocabulary skills and artistic talents. We have been able to offer all of this and more, virtually.

At John E. Grimm III Clubhouse, members have been hard at work learning how to make their own masks and creating artwork to thank healthcare workers. Staff and members also spoke about how they are going to implement a self-care practice throughout the week, something often overlooked but so important especially in these unprecedented times. Positive Action themes and sessions are an important part of our VAP and also includes things like health awareness, safety, critical thinking, and family bonding. As a part of their health & wellness programming, members learned how to make homemade granola and create a homemade smoothie bowl. Workout Wednesday incorporates live and recorded fitness workouts. Additionally, members from all Clubhouses have been going on virtual field trips and attending Digital Art Exhibitions. Members have also been able to go on virtual college tours, most recently Buffalo State. Some other VAP activities include cooking classes, talent shows, STEM experiments, poetry reading, virtual pizza parties where pizza gets sent to members and much more!
We want to engage Madison families and share opportunities with them. That’s why we’ve created this list of **10 At-Home Activities** that are family-friendly and will engage your kids during these challenging times.

1. Free College Class from Ivy League Schools. List available [here](#)
2. This site has history lessons and is intended for educators, however anyone can make an account. It’s a resource that will require parent leadership as each topic comes in the form of a lesson plan with resources and activities
3. Fun math game for grades 1-8 [here](#)
4. The Metropolitan Museum of Art virtual exhibits [here](#)
5. STEM virtual field trip/experiences available [here](#)
6. Learn coding by downloading [this free Apple app](#)
7. Get online and find exercises you can do as a family [here](#)
8. Digital Harry Potter Escape Room – Enter [Here](#)
9. Drawing lessons on Youtube from Mo Willems available [here](#)
10. Read your favorite Kids Books read by celebrities [here](#)