



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Wyndy Sloan, Director of Marketing and Communications
T: 212.760.9600 ext. 211 C: 917.776.7823
wsloan@madisonsquare.org

**MADISON CELEBRATES 125 YEARS WITH A HUGE PARTY IN BROOKLYN
WITH PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES AND CELEBRITIES**

~Chris Duhon, Kym Hampton, Reshma Shetty and Jeanne Mullgrav appear

BROOKLYN, New York (Aug. 12, 2009) – Millions of people across the NYC Metropolitan area tuned in this morning to Fox 5 *Good Day New York* to watch Anne Craig celebrate Madison Square Boys & Girls Club's 125th Birthday celebration. There were over 150 of Madison's Clubmembers, age 6-13 years old, along with staff, celebrities, and invited guests on hand for the celebration at the Navy Yard Clubhouse in Brooklyn.

The morning kicked off with a basketball shootout between teams of kids led by their captains, NY Knicks point guard Chris Duhon and former WNBA NY Liberty All-Star, Kym Hampton. It was a friendly battle that concluded with Anne Craig taking the money shot for Team Hampton and edging out Team Duhon.

Madison's Columbus Clubhouse dancers, a team of teens that have learned some pretty fancy footwork as part of the after-school programming at the Columbus Clubhouse, were the real show stoppers, performing numbers choreographed to crowd favorites by Michael Jackson, The Black-Eyed Peas, and Kool and the Gang. The group of hip hop/modern dancers is led by Elizabeth Ortiz, a 28 year-old choreographer, staff member, and alum of The Madison Square Boys & Girls Club, who joined the club when she was just 6 years-old.

Executive Director, Joseph Patuleia emceed the half-hour program which included positive messages from professional basketball players Chris Duhon and Kym Hampton, as well as 4-time Golden Gloves Champion and television boxing announcer, Brian Smith. The common theme threading through all of the athletes speeches was the importance of education.

- more -

“The event was an opportunity for our kids and staff to celebrate, and also a chance for our sponsors to be recognized for the important role they play in supporting our programs. Being in business for one hundred twenty-five years is an accomplishment that any nonprofit organization should celebrate, but being in the business of saving and enhancing the lives of thousands of kids each year is something to rejoice over,” commented Patuleia.

Other activities included:

- Jeanne Mullgrav, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development presented a proclamation to Madison.
- Reshma Shetty from the new USA Network hit series *Royal Pains* spent time interacting with the kids.
- Professional Boxers affiliated with *World Boxing Cares* signed autographs for the children and presented them with certificates.
- New York City Council member, Letitia James, spoke.
- Dance contests, face painting, and many party favorite activities were also a part of the day.
- Magnolia Bakery participated in a cooking segment on television live from the event and provided mini cupcakes for all of the kids.
- The day’s performances ended with a 5’ tall birthday cake and a modern rendition of Happy Birthday.

Some of the sponsors included: Microsoft, Heisman Trophy Trust, Vivendi, Knight Capital Group, The New York Post, Sun Capital Partners Foundation, Inc., Bank of America, Warnaco, Aetna American Standard Brands, HSBC, Motorola, and New York Stock Exchange.

About Madison Square Boys & Girls Club

Since 1884, the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club has been providing after school and summer programs for thousands of children in New York City’s most disadvantaged communities. By providing proven education, recreation and guidance programs in a safe and nurturing environment that many children consider a second home, we help our young participants lead happy, healthy and productive lives. A founding member of the Boys & Girls Club of America, Madison currently serves over 5,300 youth ages six to eighteen at seven clubhouses in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens and at Camp Madison in Kingston, New York. For more information, visit our website at www.madisonsquare.org.

The mission of the 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.

###