

SOUTH MADISON BRANCH LIBRARY CHANGES LIVES

As a teacher, there is no better place as a resource than the South Madison Public Library. I have come to rely on them to help me be the best teacher I can be.

– **By Theresa Sanders** –

Places like the South Madison Branch Library provide many of the fundamental resources and programs that help a neighborhood become a community. When I got to middle school, I began going to the library for more than just books. I started going to get resources and materials for my school papers and other projects. I would also use their computers and printers, because I didn't have a printer at home. The South Madison Branch Library provided me with many of the resources I needed to be successful in school. That is what the South Madison Branch Library did for me. It was a very important part of my youth.

– **By Deidre Green** age 17 –

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I view libraries as treasuries and librarians as life changers. A big thank you to the South Madison Branch Library!

Kegan Carter spent her first six months in Madison homeless, staying at shelters with her three children. She eventually moved into an apartment and held a series of dead-end menial jobs, wondering how she would ever get ahead. She would frequently visit the South Madison Library, nourishing her soul with the riches of books. Kegan comments, "I was in the library checking out a bunch of books (because that's what I did—I read a lot) and I saw the UW Odyssey Project brochure saying 'Begin your journey to college for free.'" She filled out the application and left it in a box at the library, an act that would change her life.

Odyssey graduate Sherri Bester refers to the staff of the South Madison Branch Library as the "unbreakable steel bridge reaching into deep dark caves leading out into unlimited blue skies of freedom for all!"

– **By Emily Auerbach** –

Project Director for the UW Odyssey Project

The South Madison Branch Library has been a wonderful place for me to come and acquire knowledge in a comfortable and safe environment. My family uses the library a lot; it is a resource for us that we couldn't even begin to pay for. You can do research, be with your friends and peers, because of the environment of the library itself and the quality of service provided by the staff both in English and Spanish. Staff is attentive to all customers. At a time when a large percentage of our country is functionally illiterate, how can we NOT support the library?

– **By Rockameem Bell** –

I am a 40 year old female that has been attending the South Madison Branch Library for over 10 years. Its services have been very educational for my family and for many families in the South Madison area. I come almost every day and get help with my computer skills.

– **Verdett Mitchell** –

See, I have this friend. Every time I go to her place, she always welcomes me, always has an open chair. Sometimes I see her just to relax; other times when I have a problem, she always has an answer or lets me use her computer to find it. When I'm down, she offers me something to make me happy. And when I'm happy, she can always remind me of the sadness in the world and how I can lessen it. Also, like a good friend, she wants to keep me on the straight and narrow. Many of you on the Southside have the same friend; The South Madison Branch Library. The library's friendship seems so unconditional; most of us don't think that the library needs a friend.

– **By Nellieyah Ngai** –

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