



# MAMA JOHNSON

## Mary Elizabeth Johnson





# Who is Mama Johnson?



Mama Johnson Field is located at Jackson and Fourth Streets and is bounded on three sides by Hoboken Housing Authority facilities. The field is named in honor of Mary Elizabeth “Mama” Johnson (1936-2005), mother of 11, avid softball player, and a long-serving Hoboken Housing Authority resident and employee.

Upon dedicating the field in 2012 Senator Robert Menendez said, “It is really a fulfillment of what Mama Johnson’s vision of life was. She wanted every child regardless of the happenstance of where they were born and what station of life they were born into, to achieve their God-given capabilities. She wanted to make sure they had an outlet to ensure that they would not join a gang, but join a broader community.”

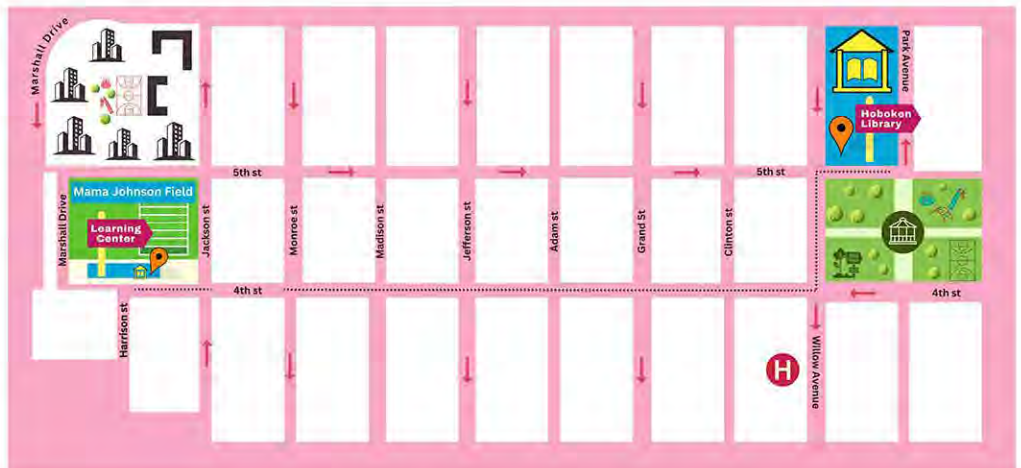
At the same event, Mama Johnson’s son, Vinny Johnson, said, “If my mom was here she would thank everyone for remembering her. I wish she was here, but know she is watching.”

In 2023, “Mama” Johnson’s grandson Orlando Johnson said, “I look at 510 Jackson Street and smile because the memory of my grandma still remains in my heart and she will forever be with me!!” Orlando said his grandmother taught her grandchildren to treat everyone equally. He also recalled fond memories of enthusiastically watching wrestling with his grandmother and other family members while eating ice cream and drinking orange soda. Mama Johnson was “more into it than us!!”

A special thank you to the Johnson family and Deborah Gilyard for sharing their family history and legacy with the Special Collections of the Hoboken Public Library.



The Library maintains an Annex immediately next to Mama Johnson Field at 401 Harrison Street, open Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30pm-5:00pm. When you get a chance visit Mama Johnson Field and visit us at the Learning Center.



Scan this code for information on all Women's History Month programs at the library!



HobokenLibrary.org

Main Library  
500 Park Avenue  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
201-420-2346

Grand Street Branch  
124 Grand Street, 2nd Fl  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
(201) 420-2346 x 5301

Learning Center  
401 Harrison Street  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
(201) 420-2346 x 5401