



## **NEWS RELEASE - JUNE 15, 2021**

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### **THE YMCA OF GREATER HARTFORD SUMMER LEARNING RECOVERY PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS ENROLLMENT ENDS JUNE 18**

#### **STUDENTS LEARN AND THRIVE IN CLASSROOM-MEETS DAY-CAMP EXPERIENCE**

(June 15, 2021, Hartford, CT) - The YMCA of Greater Hartford is accepting applications from students from the Hartford, East Hartford, and West Hartford communities to enroll in the Power Scholars Academy (PSA). The PSA provides students with a structured program that incorporates a morning of literacy and math instruction, taught by state-certified teachers, followed by an afternoon of enrichment activities, including physical education, STEM, and the arts.

The YMCA has partnered with Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) to implement the national Power Scholars Academy (PSA) to mitigate summer learning loss in the Hartford, East Hartford, and West Hartford communities for children in grades K-5. The program offers students a more robust in-person learning experience with educational resources, meals, and social activities in a classroom-meets-day-camp environment.

“Since 2013, the PSA has provided a structured, fun, and evidence-based summer learning program that promotes academic and social growth. Students who complete the program are better prepared to learn when they return to school in the fall,” says Doug Nakashima, chief operating officer for the YMCA of Greater Hartford.

This year’s PSA learning recovery program starts on June 28 and runs through August 6 at the Hartford location (CREC/University of Hartford Magnet School) and East Hartford location (O’Connell Elementary School) and from June 28 through July 31 at the West Hartford location (Wolcott Elementary School). All students are welcome. The program is offered free-of-charge in Hartford and East Hartford, and financial aid is available to eligible students enrolled in the West Hartford program. The PSA not only benefits students and inspires them to succeed, but also offers working parents a solution to finding a safe place for their children to thrive. All CDC and Connecticut Department of Public Health Covid-19 protocols will be followed.

The YMCA of Greater Hartford’s and PSA’s goals are to increase students’ literacy and math skills and mitigate summer learning loss; strengthen children’s self-confidence, social-emotional development, and physical health and well-being; and increase parental engagement.

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To register for the PSA, please contact Cristina DeAraujo (Hartford and East Hartford locations) by phone at 860-559-5679 or email at [cristina.dearaujo@ghymca.org](mailto:cristina.dearaujo@ghymca.org); or contact Derek DeStefano (West Hartford location) by phone at 860-707-3287 or email at [derek.destefano@ghymca.org](mailto:derek.destefano@ghymca.org).

For more information on YMCA of Greater Hartford programs, visit: [ghymca.org](http://ghymca.org).

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**About the YMCA of Greater Hartford:**

The YMCA of Greater Hartford has been building stronger communities for over 165 years. The non-profit is committed to providing resources in youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility to promote diversity, inclusion, and equity for all citizens of all ages. As our communities begin to recover from the pandemic, we will continue to offer foundational programs in education to mitigate lost learning; to fight food insecurity; to support seniors, children and families; as well as swim lessons, childcare, summer camp and so much more. Join us at [ghymca.org](http://ghymca.org) and become part of the YMCA of Greater Hartford community.