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The YMCA of Greater Hartford Celebrates the transfer of The Larson Center and its new designation as a YMCA Global Center of Excellence

EAST HARTFORD -- The YMCA of Greater Hartford is excited to announce that it is now the official operator of The Larson Center in the Mayberry Village section of East Hartford. The Larson Center has also been deemed a YMCA Global Center of Excellence.

At a ceremony held on August 31, U.S. Congressman John Larson and State Senator Tim Larson, whose mother the center is named after, came to support the transfer of the building's operations from the Town of East Hartford Housing Authority to the YMCA, who has operated its child care activities at the center for many years but will now lease the building from the town.

"The YMCA has provided the Mayberry Village Community with valuable programs for many years at the Larson Center. I am pleased to support the YMCA in their new venture, as the center is transferred from the Town of East Hartford to the YMCA of Greater Hartford. I am looking forward to seeing the expansion of YMCA's programs at the Larson Center, and I thank them for all of the work they do for the Mayberry Village Community," said Rep. John B. Larson (CT-01).

The transfer will allow the YMCA to maintain the building in a way that best serves our children and the Community. It will also lead to the center being named a YMCA Global Center of Excellence.

"The YMCA of Greater Hartford is excited for all the amazing opportunities the transfer of The Larson Center to the YMCA will lead to, including working with other community-based organizations within East Hartford to reach underserved populations in effective ways. We look forward to utilizing the space in ways that allow us to serve more children and families," said Harold Sparrow, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Hartford.

To honor the occasion, doctors and residents from Connecticut Children's Medical Center attended, as did the Urban Service Track. Kids at the YMCA Larson Center were treated to learning activities, and eagerly participated in things like a dental health read-a-long, a demonstration on how to brush your teeth on "Brushing Bunny," and some nutrition activities to teach them how to pick healthy meals and drinks.

About The YMCA of Greater Hartford

The YMCA of Greater Hartford is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization established in 1852 and is one of the nation's oldest YMCA's. The YMCA of Greater Hartford builds strong communities by helping individuals reach their fullest potential through transformative programs that promote Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. We help people reach their fullest potential by putting a caring adult in the presence of every child; being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us; and working in partnership to eliminate the disparities in health and education. In 2016, the YMCA of Greater Hartford served more than 120,000 people, including 66,000 children, in 52 towns and cities throughout the Hartford, Litchfield, Tolland and Windham counties. YMCA programs put the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility into practice to build healthy spirit, mind and body for all participants. [Ghymca.org](http://ghymca.org)

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