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The YMCA of Greater Hartford offers support to federal employees impacted by the Government Shutdown

HARTFORD, Conn. (January 21, 2019) — As the federal shutdown continues, the YMCA of Greater Hartford is committed to assisting the members of our community who have been impacted and to making sure that they have continued access to health, wellness, and child care services.

The YMCA of Greater Hartford will refund January membership dues to any federal employee who is currently not being paid due to the shutdown. Moving forward, the YMCA will waive membership dues until the shutdown ends. Federal employees just need to bring a government-issued ID to the Welcome Center to take advantage of this. In addition, for those who utilize YMCA Child Care (infant/toddler, preschool, before/after school care), we will hold your spot for the duration of the shutdown if you are furloughed, and work with you if you are working without pay.

For non-members who are affected by the shutdown, we invite you to come and try the Y and all we have to offer for as long as the shutdown continues. De-stress in a Zumba class, relax in our Whirlpool, or take a break and drop your children in Child Watch for two hours to get a good workout in. Just make sure to bring a government-issued ID to the Welcome Center to try us out.

Harold Sparrow, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Hartford, said, "At the YMCA, our mission is to strengthen the communities we serve and to help individuals build a lifetime of success by reaching their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body. We are committed to helping everyone reach their goals and live a healthy, fulfilling life. Like the YMCA of Greater Hartford, federal employees help to protect and strengthen our communities, and we want to support them during this difficult time."

The YMCA of Greater Hartford has six full facility branches across the region, including the Downtown Hartford YMCA and Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth & Family Center in Hartford; the Farmington Valley YMCA in Granby; the Indian Valley Family YMCA in Ellington; the Wheeler Regional Family YMCA in Plainville; and the Hale YMCA Youth & Family Center in Putnam. Federal employees are welcome to use any of our facilities.

As a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, the YMCA of Greater Hartford is dedicated 365 days a year to helping those in our communities who need a little extra help. In 2018, we provided nearly \$3 million in financial assistance to ensure everyone in Greater Hartford had access to our programs and services. We served more than 108,000 people, including 66,000 children.

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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. In 2018, the YMCA of Greater Hartford served more than 108,000 children, adults and families, 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.