



## **NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **YMCA of Metropolitan Washington Receives \$100,000 Donation from M&T Bank and Wilmington Trust**

Contribution to fund the Future Leaders Academy

**WASHINGTON, Oct. 28, 2019**—On Wednesday, Oct. 30, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington will officially launch the M&T Bank & Wilmington Trust Future Leaders' Academy at the YMCA Anthony Bowen (1325 W Street, N.W.)

The Future Leaders Academy at YMCA Anthony Bowen is a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) based early learning program that prepares children ages 2 to 5 for a 21<sup>st</sup> century education and careers. The Academy is designed to develop fine motor and language skills, and build each child's self-esteem, confidence and sense of responsibility.

M&T Bank and Wilmington Trust partnered with the YMCA to provide \$100K over five years. The Academy has four educational components: STEM focused learning, language arts programming, social engagement activities, nutrition education that introduces healthy living habits.

“We are delighted to have this partnership,” said Angie Reese-Hawkins, president and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, “Our growing programs have emphasized the importance of the YMCA in the role of helping to support community education.” The YMCA has become known for its support of STEM through its annual Thingamajig® Invention Convention, an immersive STEM convention for kids.

YMCA Anthony Bowen was the first Y for African Americans, founded in Washington, D.C. in 1853 by Anthony Bowen, a slave who purchased his freedom from a plantation owner. Today, the YMCA Anthony Bowen is a full-service facility with a state-of-the-art workout facility, a gymnasium, exercise studios and other amenities that are utilized to deliver a range of programs and services. Programs include full and half-day childcare, before and after-school programs, babysitting, swimming lessons, adaptive aquatics classes and personal training.

Through YMCA Anthony Bowen's Teaching Kitchen, food is provided to the Community Food Project, an initiative that helps to combat obesity, diabetes and food security with the distribution of healthy local produce, educational cooking classes using the American Heart Association's Cooking with Heart curriculum. The program also provides community dinners that build relationships and support networks. The Community Food Project is a collaborative project of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Heart Association, Washington National's Youth Baseball Academy and 4P Foods. The M&T Bank and Wilmington Trust partnership will also support nutrition education programs.

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#### **About the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington**

Founded in 1852, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is one of the D.C. area's premier social service agencies, and an expert in the design and delivery of innovative programs for every age group. The Y's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, and physical development of individuals, families and communities, according to the ideals of inclusiveness, equality and mutual respect for all. YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is an organization of 17 associated branches that deliver programs and services across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.