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Navient Foundation supports the YMCA of Delaware's need-based summer camp program

WILMINGTON, Del., June 02, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Navient Foundation, the company-sponsored philanthropic fund, announced today that it has awarded a \$12,000 grant to the YMCA of Delaware to help low-income children experience learning gains during the summer months.

The YMCA of Delaware is the state's largest nonprofit organization committed to strengthening local citizens through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

"It's critically important to keep our children engaged and challenged over the summer months. Our intentional work focusing on preventing summer learning loss is fun for the children, puts parents' minds at ease and ensures that children will return to school in the fall stronger and more prepared for academic success," said Deborah Bagatta-Bowles, chief executive officer, YMCA of Delaware. "The YMCA of Delaware is very thankful to the Navient Foundation for their generous contribution to our summer camp programs to help combat summer learning loss."

The contribution will provide financial assistance to families with demonstrated financial needs, which will help send their child to a YMCA summer camp to provide them with positive youth development opportunities at eight camp locations throughout Delaware.

Youth who attend YMCA of Delaware summer camps are socially and physically active and regularly engage in daily literacy activities. In the summer of 2015, the Walnut Street YMCA piloted an evidenced-based literacy program that resulted in 72 percent of kindergarten and first grade students demonstrating learning gains in literacy. Additionally, 85 percent of second through fifth grade students showed an increase as well.

"It's important for our nation's youth to retain the knowledge they have learned year after year in order to advance to the highest grade level, and ultimately through college," said Sheila Ryan-Macie, senior vice president, Navient. "We are delighted to support our local YMCA's summer camps in our communities."

Navient is the nation's leading loan management, servicing and asset recovery company, headquartered in Wilmington, Del.

Learn more about the [YMCA of Delaware](#).

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