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# PRESSRELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Worcester Housing Authority Awarded \$15,000 from Greater Worcester Community Foundation**

*WHA, through its non-profit instrumentality, Building Futures, Inc. to provide summer camp programming to youth in Lakeside Apartments*

**WORCESTER, Massachusetts** – Always seeking to provide new ways of offering valuable, free educational programming to WHA youth in its mission to champion self-sufficiency for all residents, the Worcester Housing Authority (WHA), through its non-profit instrumentality, Building Futures, Inc. (BFI) has been awarded a \$15,000 Community Benefits Grant from Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF) to run Camp Lakeside, a free summer camp program offered to youth at the WHA's Lakeside Apartments.

Camp Lakeside focuses on nutrition, fitness, and literacy, and runs from early July through mid-August. The program serves approximately 35 youth between the ages of 5 and 13, providing them with activities such as cooking lessons, arts and crafts, sports and group physical fitness activities, book clubs. Camp Lakeside also offers three educational field trips that promote a healthy lifestyle and reduce summer learning loss.

Camp Lakeside will address two key issues facing WHA youth: poverty & access. Dealing with an average income of only \$17,982/year, summer camp programming is often out of reach financially for WHA families. By providing these programs at no cost, the WHA, through BFI is able to offer access to educational opportunities that would otherwise out of reach for WHA youth.

As it has done in the past, the WHA will partner with community organizations to plan the curriculum and activities for this program, which will launch in the summer of 2021. The WHA is grateful to GWCF for this opportunity and excited to provide this crucial service to low-income youth, as explained by Chief Executive Officer, Alex Corrales:

***“With the pandemic tearing through our communities, funding for youth activities has been stretched thin. It is critical to keep children engaged both mentally and physically during the summer months to promote a healthy lifestyle and prevent learning loss.”***

*The mission of the Worcester Housing Authority is to enhance the Worcester community by creating and sustaining decent, safe, and affordable housing that champions stability and self-sufficiency for its residents. To learn more, please contact WHA Chief Executive Officer Alex Corrales at 508-635-3106.*