



**GREATER HARTFORD BRANCH OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 19, 2017

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***The Greater Hartford Youth Council of the NAACP,  
Greater Hartford Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and  
Hartford Communities That Care to create 12-week Youth Leadership Academy***

(Hartford, CT) - The Greater Hartford Youth Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and Hartford Communities That Care; will collaborate to create a 12-week Youth Leadership Academy to examine "The Intersection of Education, Poverty, Trauma, and Violence".

The 12-week Youth Leadership Academy will focus on research, critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. Youth will perform research to identify resources to mitigate the effects of violence and trauma exposure among youth. They will learn about the history and culture of the neighborhoods in Hartford. Concurrently, in celebration of the Greater Hartford NAACP's 100th Year Anniversary; the youth will learn about the history, role, and relevance of the NAACP and relate these items to current conditions and challenges.

Youth interested in participating in the 12-week Youth Leadership Academy, can attend the next Greater Hartford Youth Council meeting on Saturday, June 3, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Hartford Communities That Care, 2550 Main Street, Hartford, CT. Youth Council Officers will be onsite, conducting interviews with prospective participants, and will be recruiting new youth council members. The 12-week Academy is scheduled to begin on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at Hartford Communities That Care 2550 Main Street Hartford, CT.

For additional information, contact Maxien Robinson, Advisor of the Greater Hartford Youth Council by phone at (860) 995-0313 or by email at [greaterhartfordnaacp1@gmail.com](mailto:greaterhartfordnaacp1@gmail.com); or, contact Andrew Woods, Co-Advisor of the Greater Hartford Youth Council, at (860) 209-8957 or by email at [awoods@hartfordctc.org](mailto:awoods@hartfordctc.org).

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***"The Greater Hartford NAACP: A Century of Taking a Stand for What We Believe In"***

**NAACP and IMA  
Youth Leadership Academy  
In Collaboration with Hartford Communities That Care**

**Program Summary**

The Greater Hartford NAACP and Greater Hartford Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, in partnership with Hartford Communities That Care, will offer a 12 week (48 hour total) Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) program to middle and high school aged youth at the HCTC.

The program extends the work of the 2015 My Brother's Keeper/ YPAR summer session facilitated by the Institute for Community Research in collaboration with HCTC by building on its focus on community assets. It will extend the idea of community assets to include cultural/historical heritage of the Greater Hartford area, with a defined emphasis on the 06120 neighborhoods of Hartford. This will include the history of the Greater Hartford NAACP, the Greater Hartford Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) and may include history, migration stories, neighborhood stories of youth achievement, elements of younger/older youth culture (e.g. games, culturally specific sports, performance/spoken word, music etc.), adult performers, politicians, civil rights activists, historically important community sites, religious institutions, cemeteries, etc. Youth will be asked to generate their own list of specific cultural elements and offered a list of additional options.

With help and guidance from HCTC staff, NAACP and IMA members and civic, business and other leaders, the youth will collect information on their choice of cultural/historical heritage elements in the Hartford community and prepare to represent it. In the process they may also engage people who represent important aspects of community culture and involve them in the process. Their information collection could include recorded interviews with adults, collecting artifacts (such as newspaper clippings, pictures, clothing, music, etc.) from community participants, filming performances, music and narratives, mapping these cultural/historical assets, and participatory photography (joint photographing with other youth of important events or activities in the community). Youth will create a multimedia "installation" of their work at 2550-Main Street and Fred D. Wish School, with the support of HCTC staff, volunteers and teachers in the school that will be open to school students and the general public.

**Outcomes:**

**Individual level:** Youth will learn more about the history and culture of the Hartford and it's neighborhoods, gain critical thinking, problem solving, creative and communications skills; information collection and analysis skills; skills in organizing museum-like installations for sharing information with other youth and the broader community.

**Group level:** Youth will learn to plan, organize and collect information with their peers; also communicate more effectively with each other and learn conflict negotiation/resolution skills.

**Community level:** Youth will share results in a sustainable format at 2550-Main Street, Fed D. Wish and multi-media settings. Youth will share their work with other youth, at cultural and civic events, at museums in Hartford and at the 100 Year Anniversary of the NAACP Gala. Valuable new information about cultural assets and neighborhood/community heritage will be uncovered and presented to the public as part of the broader effort to identify positive resources to mitigate the effects of violence and trauma exposure among youth in the community.

### **12-Week Plan (4 hours/week)**

**Week 1: The goals of Week 1 are to orient youth to the modified version of YPAR, briefly review the work done over the summer, introduce the scope of the work and complete group building/teamwork activities.**

Main activities:

- Introductions – staff and youth
- Introduction to the program
- Paperwork
- Getting to know each other ice breaker
- Group agreements
- Group building activities

**Week 2: The goals of Week 2 are to review work done over the past summer, see examples of other cultural/historical assets, exhibits and similar work**

Main activities:

- Review of summer programs materials
- Have youth create their own story or stories about the 06120 area
- Review examples of historical/cultural work
- Our Community activity

**Week 3: The goals of Week 3 are to explore potential topics of focus areas by gathering stories from home, highlighting themes, and listing areas for further exploration (preliminary data collection).**

Main activities:

- Collecting stories/artifacts from multiple generations from home
- Sharing stories/artifacts from home with the group
- Research historical facts from the 06120 area
- Create a list of areas youth can explore with their research

**Week 4: The goals of Week 4 are to create a data collection plan, get trained in ethics, practice systematic story collecting and pilot their research instruments.**

Main activities:

- Creation of a data collection plan
- Presentation on ethics in research (modified version for middle school)
- Recruit participants (staff responsibility)
- Practice story collecting and other forms of cultural artifacts etc. for installation
- Pilot story collecting about events, objects, locations, rituals, performances.

**Week 5: The goal of week 5 is to finalize their research tool(s) and create scripts for data collection to begin data collection.**

Main activities:

- Finalize their questions
- Create information sheets
- Create scripts for data collection
- Practice in-depth interviewing

**Week 6: The goal of week 6 is to begin data collection.**

Main activities:

- Begin data collection
- Analyze information as it is collected

**Week 7: The goal of week 7 is to finish data collection.**

Main activities:

- Data collection

**Week 8: The goals of week 8 to begin data triangulation**

Main activities:

- Analyze findings
- Find key themes or conclusions from data

**Week 9: The goal of week 9 is to continue data triangulation.**

Main activities:

- Find key themes or stories in the collected data
- Summarize findings

**Week 10: The goals of week 10 are to plan the presentation of the data, decide on the format of the presentation, and come up with recommendations for change based on the data.**

Main activities:

- Decide how the data will be presented
- Personal narratives from the youth on their participation

**Week 11: The goal of week 11 is to create their final presentation and practice**

Main activities:

- Create final presentation
- Create materials to give attendees
- Assign roles for final presentation and practice
- Brainstorm ways to assess impact of final presentation/action

**Week 12: The goal of week 12 is to have their final presentation/ implement their chosen action.**

Main activities:

- Final presentation

**Additional Information:**

Start Date: June 3, 2017

Time: 10:00-2:00pm

Every Saturday for 12-weeks

Periodic Planning meetings during the weeks

Number of participants: 12

*Volunteers with a variety of skills and capabilities will be sought*

***"The Intersection of "Education, Poverty, Trauma and Violence"***