



# SNAPSHOT

## Summer 2020 Family Support Initiative (FSI)

A Public/Private Venture of the  
Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association  
(GRSLA)







# OUR PROMISE

We promise to instill in our students  
a belief in their abilities,  
an understanding of their potential  
for achievement, and a joyous spirit of  
optimism about the future.



With schools closed for months and the COVID-19 pandemic wreaking havoc on the normalcy of life, we knew early on that our typical summer learning and enrichment programming were not going to be the same in summer 2020.

As we spoke to our early childhood CBO partners, and to the parents of the students we were following from the previous summer, it became abundantly clear that our focus needed to be on supporting the family unit as they heroically tried to manage this unprecedented upheaval in their lives. Never has the inequity of the summer time-frame been so apparent and concerning.

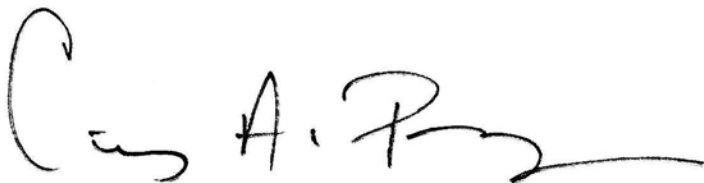
Historically, summer vacation represents significant disparities in opportunities to: learn, grow socially and emotionally, stay safe, stay physically active and healthy, and in feeling connected to a community. In summer 2020, this reality was exacerbated much earlier and to a greater degree.

It is from this context that the GRSLA Summer 2020 Family Support Initiative (FSI) was developed and implemented. The FSI focused on 130 rising kindergarteners who had participated in summerLEAP the previous summer, and whose PreK year was severely disrupted when the schools closed in March.

As we began our weekly home visits we found amazing examples of commitment, of deep love and concern for their children, and resourceful ways in which parents were dealing with all of the changes and expectations. We give voice to this commitment by families in the many quotes you'll find throughout this booklet, together with the "Front Porch Portraits" capturing the strength and beauty of the families we served, and included in this booklet under the "Power of Family".

It was a challenging but fun-filled summer we will not soon forget. We thank the parents who participated, our funders and supporters (list enclosed) who provided the resources to make it happen, and the GRSLA/summerLEAP team (list enclosed) for their commitment to the families of our community.

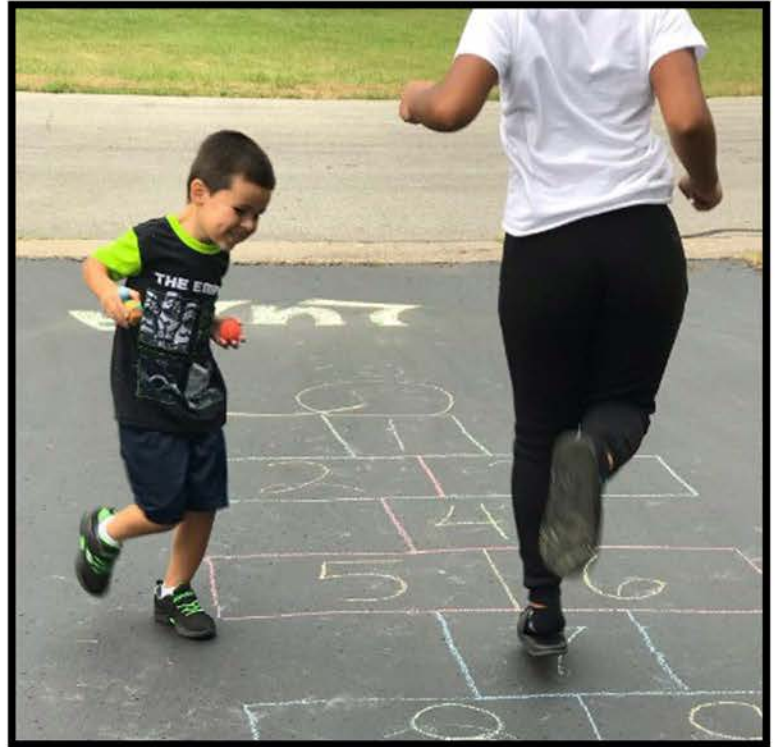
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luis A. Perez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

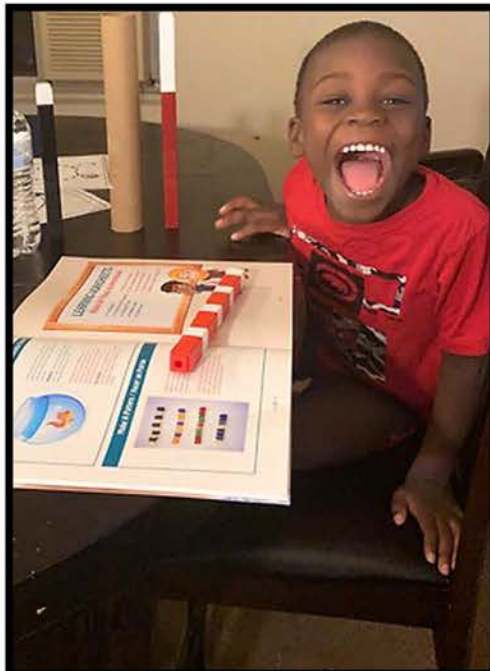
Luis A. Perez  
CEO  
GRSLA / summerLEAP



**"I enjoyed everything! I appreciate the interaction opportunity it gave me with my son...he loved that I engaged with him."**



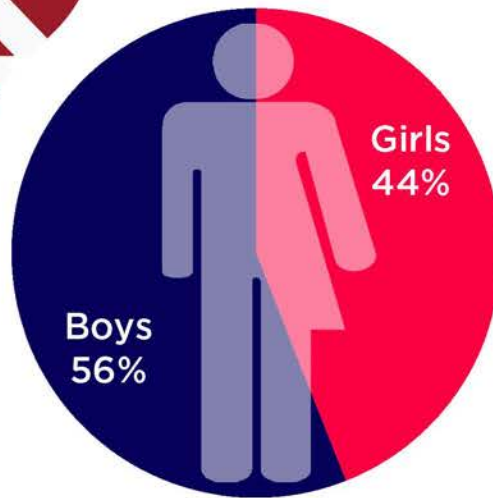
**"Thank you!! What was expected to be a terrible summer turned out to be really fun for both us parents as well as the kids! You guys are truly amazing!!"**



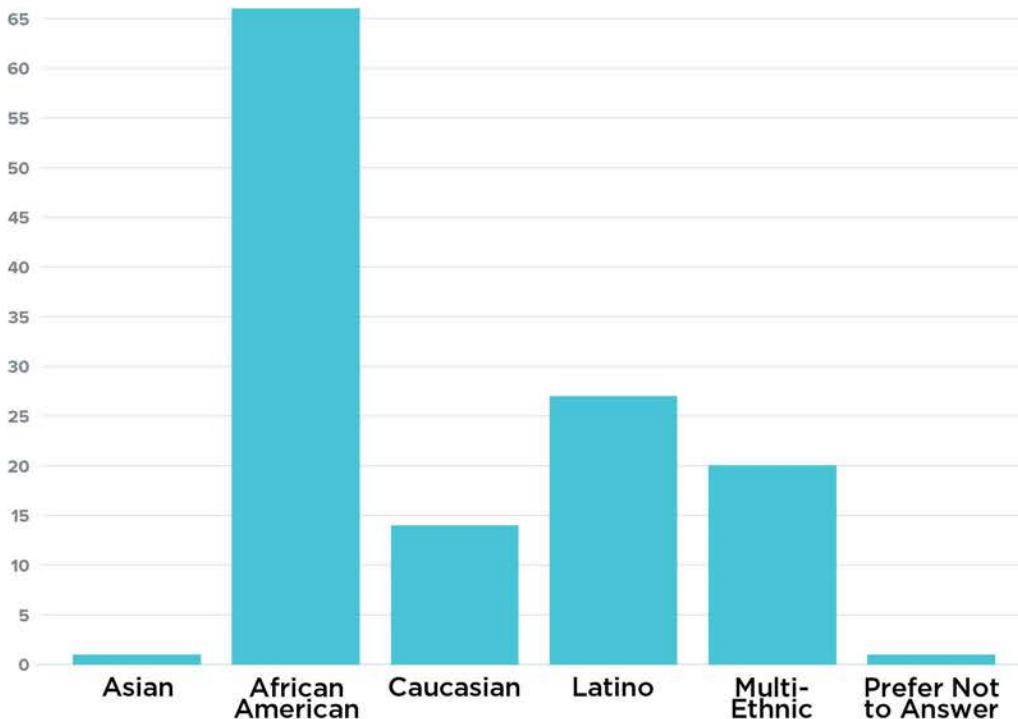


# GRSLA's PreK Family Support Initiative for Summer 2020

## OUR PARTICIPANTS:



129 UPK Go K Students Participated



# OUR PROGRAM ELEMENTS:



Weekly Home Visits to Deliver Learning Materials



Certified Teacher & Family Support Specialist Assigned to Each Family



Pre-Recorded Videos to Accompany Science Lessons



Live Lessons via Zoom



Science at Home Kits



Play at Home Kits



Basic Needs Assistance



Culturally Appropriate Books

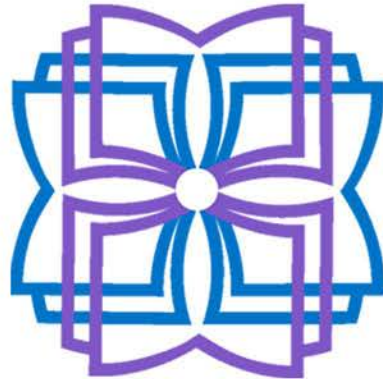
Personal Connections

Material Connections



summerLEAP 2020 / Family Support Initiative

# PROGRAM PARTNERS



Central Library  
of Rochester &  
Monroe County

Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County  
MiFi Units and Raise a Reader Book Bags



Education Success Foundation  
Food Boxes

**H** HEADWATER  
FOOD HUB

Headwater Food Hub · Food Boxes





Perez Sisters Photography · Front Porch Portraits



ROC the Future  
Culturally relevant and age appropriate books



WXXI  
Education and Family Engagement /  
Learning at Home Initiative - Activity Bags

# **HOME DELIVERIES**

**a key to a successful summer**

Since in-classroom learning was not an option during this unprecedented summer, a major key to the Family Support Initiative's success was our home delivery model. By delivering the summerLEAP learning materials and resources directly to families' homes, we had the opportunity to interface with the children and family members from a safe social distance on a weekly basis!

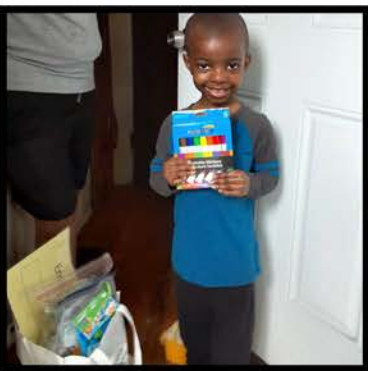
We started planning our home delivery routes well before the program even started. After all students were registered for the summerLEAP at Home program, the city was split up into three delivery routes based on family addresses. We used a route-optimization software called Routific to help us select the best routes.

Each two-person Family Support Team was assigned a caseload of families based on a certain geographic area (Northwestern, Southwestern, or Eastern neighborhoods) and was assigned to work with 42 to 45 families throughout the summer. Every Monday and Tuesday, each Family Support Team loaded up their cars with the learning materials for the week and hit the road to visit with families and deliver materials. Delivery days were highly anticipated and filled with great conversations with families, excitement, and smiles!





**“I appreciate the summerLEAP team who dropped off the materials, they were sweet and nice, and they made me feel good on the days I was able to be home to speak to them. Thank you so much!”**



**“The whole program was helpful to both myself and my child.”**



# **SCIENCE@HOME**

**hands-on and at-home**

During a typical summer, we provide our PreK summerLEAP classrooms and teachers with everything they need to teach six engaging science units throughout the program. Since this summer was anything but typical, we quickly adapted our traditional classroom-based science curriculum into family-friendly at-home science exploration! This summer's Science at Home units included Air, Five Senses, Light, Magnets & Chemistry, Plants, and Water.

We made the Science at Home kits family-friendly in several ways. First, we provided all the materials for each science activity, right down to the paper towels for cleanup! By not making any assumptions about what materials families had at home, we made the kits accessible to all participants. Next, our Learning Liaisons created one-page instructions for each science experiment. These instruction sheets - available in English and Spanish - conveniently allowed families to complete the activities without having to log online for extra information.

In addition to the materials and instruction sheets, which were hand-delivered to families each week, families also received a weekly email newsletter with optional supplemental materials to accompany the Science at Home curriculum. Our Learning Liaisons created YouTube videos for each science experiment, and families had access to the links to watch at their convenience. Optional weekly Zoom lessons also provided participants the opportunity to engage with their summerLEAP teachers and peers about the science topic of the week.





“My favorite part of the program was getting to do experiments with my children and seeing the look on their faces while learning.”



“Seeing my daughter so excited each morning wanting to go check and water her plants was my favorite part...her face was priceless when they started to grow!”





# **PLAY@HOME**

the power of play

Play is powerful for your learners and families alike, and that is why we decided to include the summerLEAP Play at Home kit into this year's programming. Unstructured play is how children learn best and also gives children (and caregivers!) a way to decompress during times of stress. Additionally, play builds important skills like teamwork and problem solving while supporting healthy minds and bodies.

Our Play at Home kits featured materials for exploring and enjoying the outdoors as well as playing and crafting inside:

Bouncy Balls · Beach Ball · Bubbles · Bug Catcher · Chalk · Colored Pencils  
Construction Paper · Crayons · Glue Sticks · Markers · Masking Tape  
Pencil Case · Pencil Sharpener · Pencils · Pipe Cleaners · Playdoh  
Playdoh Modeling Tools · Pompoms · Scissors · Sketch Pad · Stickers  
Tweezers · Watercolor Paint

The unstructured Play at Home kit was very well received, and we were impressed to see how families used the materials in fun and creative ways!



“My favorite part of the program was being able to have fun and engage at home with my child.”



“I love how the teachers bring everything they need to carry out the activities. My son loved everyone and looks forward to learning how it works or what exactly the activity is.... his face just lights up!”





# HEALTHY ME

healthy and happy

Another aspect of the summer 2020 Family Support Initiative was our “Healthy Me” initiative, which added a few health components into the materials we distributed to families. Each child received a children’s toothbrush and toothpaste as well as a laminated tooth brushing chart to encourage good dental hygiene. Additionally, each child was provided with colorful exercise choice boards and yoga choice boards, which were used during Zoom calls. These simple additions to our curriculum helped to encourage our students to engage in physical activity while at home. We are looking forward to continuing to explore and expand Healthy Me in future summers.



Exercise and Yoga Choice Boards

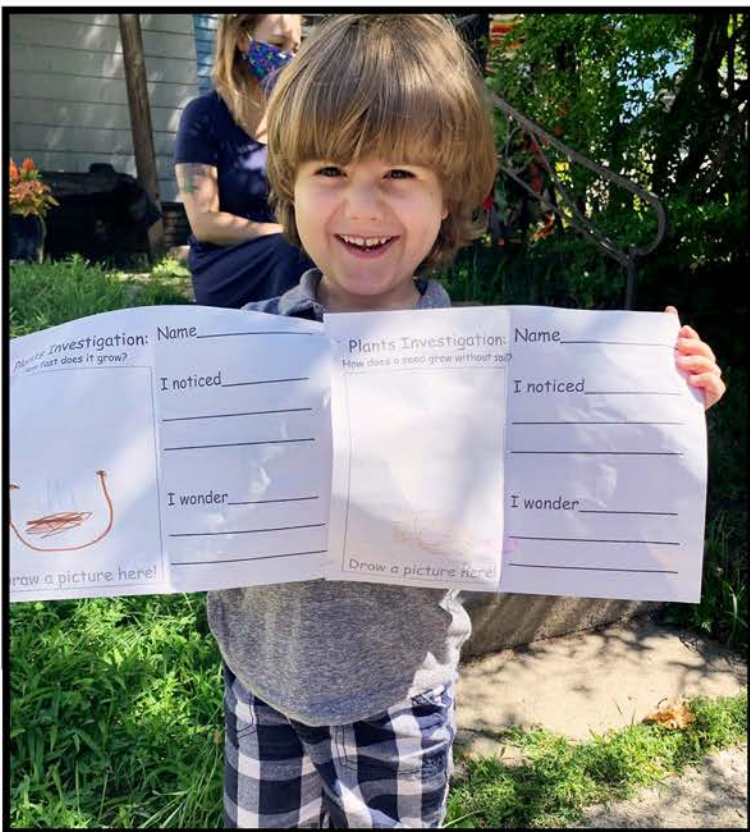


Toothbrush, Toothpaste, and Tooth Brushing Chart





**“My son loved that he had something to do at home with his sister every week.”**



**“This program was amazing! The level of engagement and learning was great, especially during the COVID summer.”**





# the power of **FAMILY:** s u m m e r 2 0 2 0 **front porch portraits**







**“I loved seeing my child’s happiness as he learned new things.”**







**“My favorite part of the program was being able to have a chance to interact, have fun, and learn with/teach my child. I was having a hard time finding other things for him to do other than video games and this came right on time for my family. Thank you for the opportunity!”**







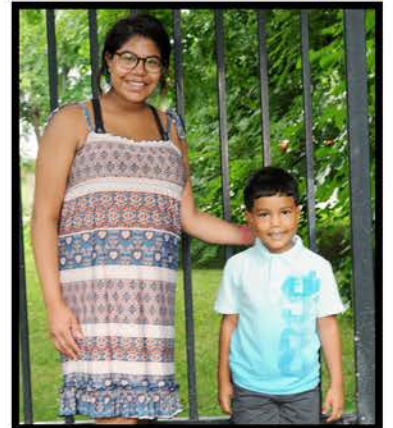




**“My favorite part was there was a lot of communication and organization with the program. Also all the great activities to keep the kids learning as well as having fun at the same time.”**













**“My favorite part was that each lesson plan came with absolutely everything we needed and the lessons were very easy to guide my child in.**

**Also, they were all lessons that I was able to expand on by using different material around the home to explore further.”**





2020 Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association

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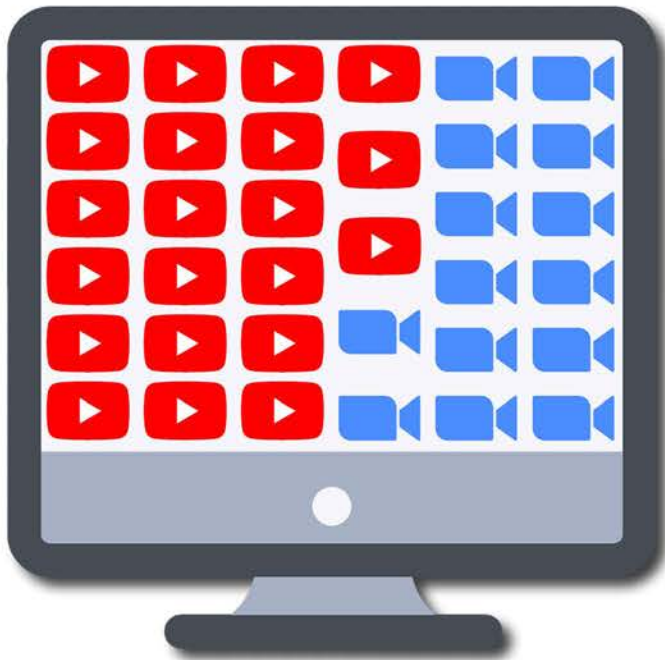
William & Sheila Konar Foundation



# 2020

## BY THE NUMBERS

**21** pre-recorded  
YouTube videos created



**574**  
face-to-face  
visits



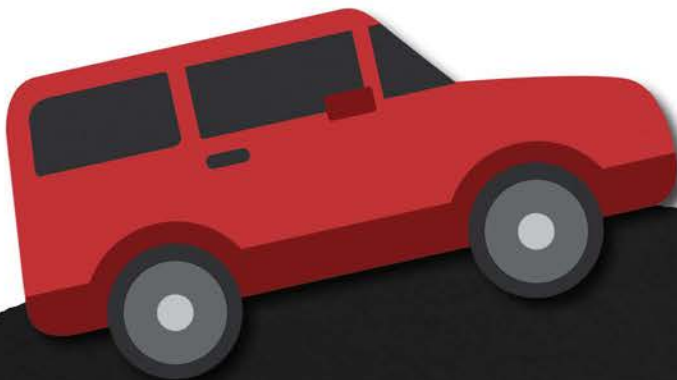
**376**  
ear-to-ear  
contacts

**14** interactive  
Zoom Sessions

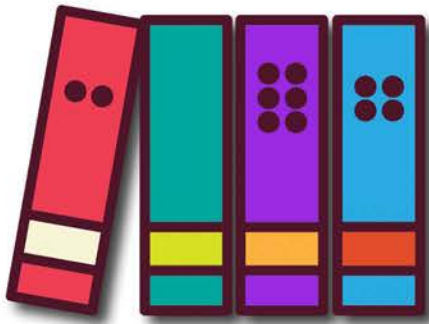


**1047**  
thumb-to-thumb  
contacts

with families  
during the program



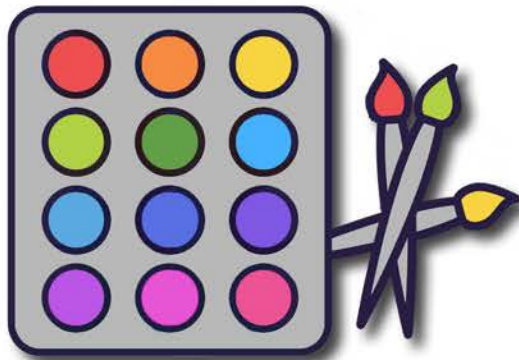




**2,064**

books distributed -

that's **16** books per student!

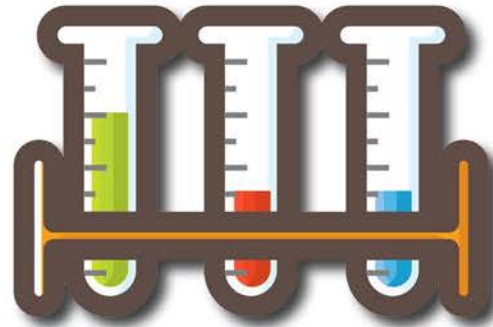


**129**

Play at Home  
kits distributed

**744**

Science at Home  
kits distributed



**3** Family Support  
Teams traveled

**1,235** miles during  
the summer to conduct  
home visits





# **The 2020 Family Support Initiative Team**

**Amanda Ballard, MSW  
Program Support  
Specialist**

**Vialma Ramos  
Family Support  
Specialist**

**Mariella Diaz  
Program Support  
Alternate  
(not pictured)**

**Rachel Perez-Rumpf  
Program Photographer**

**Courtney Smart  
Learning Liaison**

**Susan Neal  
Learning Liaison**

**Gretchen Wolfs, LMSW  
Social Worker and  
Initiative Director**

**Luis A. Perez, LMSW  
Social Worker**









**“Pretty much all of it is amazing.**

**The program provided materials and lessons  
that are fun and engaging! The teachers are great!**

**Additional resources are regularly provided.**

**Very happy with the whole program!”**



Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association (GRSLA)  
summerLEAP Programs

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Luis A. Perez, President and CEO

summer LEAP

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