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Contact: Mary F. Crean, 860.695.6360, mcrean@hplct.org

The Stars Shined for Hartford Public Library's One Big Summer Night Gala

Hartford, Connecticut (July 16, 2012) — Hartford Public Library and nearly 630 of its supporters, including State and local government leaders, business executives, media and literary celebrities, came together for the Library's spectacular annual gala, **One Big nearly Summer Night** at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on June 12. The event, sponsored by **Connecticut Light & Power** and chaired by **Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman**, raised nearly **\$128,000** to support high quality public education for all ages.

"As a lifelong lover of books and libraries, I was delighted to be a part of One Big Summer Night," said **Arianna Huffington**, president and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post Media Group. "At a time when libraries across the country are increasingly under attack, it was so heartening to be in the company of those who are preserving the Library's legacy of starting conversations, exchanging ideas, and providing essential services to the Hartford community."

"CL&P is honored to be associated with the Hartford Public Library as it continues to redefine the urban public library," said **CL&P Senior Vice President of Emergency Preparedness Bill Quinlan**. "More and more people are taking advantage of their many programs. That is a clear sign the library is viewed as an essential educational resource for Hartford's many neighborhoods."

Highlights of the event included pre-event cocktail receptions sponsored by **The Hartford and First Niagara**, a live auction sponsored by the **Travelers**, a silent auction, a sumptuous meal, and performances by Ed Fast and Christine Dixon-Smith (Sistah Nandi) and the Sankofa Ensemble.

Matt Poland, the Library's chief executive officer, launched a fundraising campaign for **Itty Bitty City**, an interactive learning and discovery play space for Hartford youth and

their parents. \$27,000 was raised in support of this project that focuses on early literacy for children ages birth to five.

Of the event, **Lt. Governor Wyman** said, “This Library is not just a building filled with books. It is a living, breathing and growing part of the lifeblood of this community that is enriching the lives and the futures of so many – young, old and in-between. I was proud to be Honorary Chair of this wonderful gala, and even prouder that our Capital city is home to such an exceptional place of learning – and of doing. And Hartford Public Library, a place like no other, is among the best in the nation.”

Attachment –Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post Media Group was the featured guest at Hartford Public Library’s **One Big Summer Night** gala, June 12 at the Connecticut Convention Center.

About [Hartford Public Library](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library’s new blog at blogs.hplct.org