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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Hartford Public Library Receives Surprise \$25,000 NewAlliance Foundation High Impact Literacy Award**



*Left to right: Donna Haghghat, Hartford Public Library Chief Development Officer; Kim Healey, Executive Director, New Alliance Foundation; Matt Poland, Hartford Public Library CEO, Maryann Ott, Associate Director, New Alliance Foundation.*

HARTFORD, Connecticut (April 25, 2014) – Hartford Public Library was presented on Thursday, April 24, with a surprise grant award of \$25,000 from NewAlliance Foundation in support of the Library’s dedication to providing access to literacy education to all Hartford residents. The “Hi-5” High Impact Literacy Award is granted annually to an organization in the NewAlliance Foundation service area that embodies the five attributes the Foundation wishes to honor in the field of literacy: vision, responsiveness, innovation, spirit and results.

“Literacy is critical to the success of Hartford’s youth, adults, and the community. Our commitment to literacy is at the core of our mission, and inspires what we do here each and every day,” said Matt Poland, CEO of Hartford Public Library. “We are thrilled to receive this unexpected award, which will allow us to continue to provide innovative educational programming and improve literacy skills for residents throughout the city.”

Hartford Public Library offers an array of literacy programs for children and adults at its nine branches and Downtown location:

- The Library’s many **early-literacy programs, resources and technologies** provide access to the materials and skills that Hartford’s youngest students need to enter school prepared to learn and achieve educational success.
- Each summer, thousands of Hartford students participate in the Library’s *Great Summer Read*, the **only provider of programming, encouragement and free access to literacy materials during the summer.**
- Hartford Public Library’s literacy programming **redefines traditional education by extending to student of all ages** a variety of year-round programs, free and open to all. These include English-as-Second-Language (ESL) classes, computer, health, and financial literacy programs
- **A recent partnership with Hartford Public Schools** allows the Library to maximize access to its services for city students, parents, and educators.

“We’re very impressed with Hartford Public Library’s dedication to the community, and to addressing the critical gap in education and literacy services that exists for many Hartford residents,” said Kim Healey, Executive Director of NewAlliance Foundation. “The programming provided by the Library makes a wide variety of learning and literacy skills available to all, and is a truly invaluable service. We’re pleased to be able to support its continued innovation, vision, and results.”

#### **ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)**

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as a national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their

passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

**ABOUT [NEW ALLIANCE FOUNDATION](http://NewAllianceFoundation.org)**

As an independent charitable foundation, the mission of NewAlliance Foundation is to provide financial support to charitable organizations addressing diverse community needs in the arts, community development, health & human services, and youth & education. A segment of the Foundation's grant making is targeted toward programs which empower people through the development of literacy skills. [Newalliancefoundation.org](http://Newalliancefoundation.org)

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