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Library to host Henry Winkler at One Big Summer Night 2013

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT (February 5, 2013) —Hartford Public Library announced today that Henry Winkler, actor, director, producer, philanthropist, and *New York Times* best-selling author, will be the featured speaker at the Library's annual fundraiser, ***One Big Summer Night***, on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Downtown Hartford.

One Big Summer Night, which has grown in popularity since it began in 2002, features noted authors, an elegant reception, exciting live and silent auctions, and a summer supper. Previous featured authors were: Dominick Dunne, Jacques Pépin, Wally Lamb, Francine du Plessix Gray, Colin McEnroe, Nora Pollard, Paul Weidner, Malachy McCourt, Julie Powell, the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Julie and Julia*, Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski, stars of MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, and last year Arianna Huffington columnist, president and editor-in-chief of the AOL Huffington Post Media Group.

Proceeds from the event help fund wide ranging literacy, digital access and educational programs to serve the thousands of men, women and children who visit, and depend on, the Library every day. The event also allows the Library to maintain computer access for Hartford residents to use the latest technology for information, learning, the needs of daily living, and to find work.

About the speaker

Henry Winkler is an actor, director, producer, *New York Times* best-selling author and philanthropist. His portrayal of Arthur Fonzarelli, beloved by all as "The Fonz," won him two consecutive Golden Globe Awards and three Emmy nominations. He also served as Executive Producer for *Hollywood Squares*, *MacGyver*, *Dead Man's Gun*, *Sightings*, and the Disney series *So Weird*. More recently he can be seen in series such as *Royal Pains* and Cartoon Network's first live-action satirical comedy, *Children's Hospital*.

In 2003, his career proceeded on a path that he could never have anticipated, he began writing series of children's novels entitled, *Hank Zipzer: The World's Greatest Under-Achiever*. The books have appeared on several best sellers lists and are inspired by Winkler's struggle throughout his education due to his Dyslexia, which would not be diagnosed until later in life. In January of 2012, Winkler released the first installment of a new children's book series entitled, *Ghost Buddy #1: Zero to Hero*. He has also published a collection of anecdotes, photos of heartfelt observations gathered while fly fishing in Montana entitled *I Never Met an Idiot on the River*.

An avid philanthropist, Winkler uses his position to help others, particularly children. He is associated with groups such as the Honorary Chairman of United Friends of the Children; Founding member of the Children's Action Network; Co-host of the Annual Cerebral Palsy telethon; the Special Olympics among many others. Last year, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II awarded Henry with an Honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of his services to children with special education needs.

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 865,000 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. www.hplct.org.

Henry Winkler's head shot available upon request.