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For Immediate Release

Hartford Financial Services Funds Asylum Hill Library Programs

December 15, 2016 — Hartford Public Library has received a grant in the amount of \$47,500 from The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. to fund three initiatives: Library-on-Wheels; Library services at West Middle School; and a sponsorship for the 2017 Beyond Words annual fundraising event.

Hartford Public Library's Library-on-Wheels delivers library services to persons who are not served or who are underserved by traditional library branches because of physical, economic, social, geographic or other barriers. Library on wheels will visit Asylum Hill neighborhood daycare sites and senior centers on a regular schedule. It will be staffed by a youth services librarian and by a library assistant. Youth visits will be coordinated with the site directors to determine which classrooms to visit and the number of children and teachers participating. Visits to the adult sites will also be coordinated to maximize the potential of the outreach.

West Middle School, in the heart of the Asylum Hill neighborhood, serves Pre-K through Grade 8 students. Hartford Public Library will support this vibrant public resource by strategically focusing on families, caregivers, and adult learners in the neighborhood. They serve both directly and indirectly as mentors and role models for the children of that community. The Library, while still providing access to collections and resources, will strategically focus its programming on its adult learning efforts, recognizing that the success of the adult learner is linked to the success of the young student in building a strong neighborhood community.

The first three programs that will be run in West Middle are: an integrated Basic Level English as a Second Language class incorporating contextualized instruction (field trips, real life community activities, virtual tours) to facilitate comprehension of community resources; Spanish Language Classes for adults designed to build a more cohesive community and to facilitate cross-cultural communication in an increasingly bi-lingual (Spanish/English) community; and Chief Teale's Tools of Learning, focusing on students 18 years and older. Charles R. Teale's classes present learning strategies and are progressive in nature. The retired Hartford fire chief will provide flexible hours for one-on-one tutorials for registered participants

throughout the 8-week session. Since his retirement, Teale has been active both as an author and as an instructor for Hartford Adult Education.

ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

As a finalist for the 2013 and 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place that provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. In 2015-16, the 10 locations of the Hartford Public Library counted 850,000 visits, circulated 408,972 items and had 71,059 registered borrowers. We serve adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Please visit www.hplct.org.