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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Connects on Early Literacy

Hartford Public Library's Leap into Learning initiative Gets Additional Support

HARTFORD, CT (September 3, 2015) – Hartford Public Library's ***Leap into Learning's*** Child Care Program received a \$10,000 grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation.

Leap into Learning is building a learning and teaching community comprised of early childhood caregivers, programs, groups and organizations that will work together so all children in Hartford will enter kindergarten ready to learn. The new initiative will strengthen the Library's current early literacy efforts, internally and externally, and will address the needs of the City's multicultural and multilingual residents.

Leap into Learning's Child Care Program will identify a core of twenty (20) home and family day care providers based on their commitment and consistency in offering the best services for the young learners in their care. The program will address:

- inner city licensed or unlicensed home / family daycare providers who are multi lingual, multi-cultural, and economically and educationally disadvantaged
- educational needs of inner city economically disadvantaged children aged birth-5 in home daycare settings

The Library will offer ten training modules. Each module will be fun and engaging with hand-on, modeling as well as basic instruction and will support and improve readiness for kindergarten.

With a physical footprint across the city and outreach to compliment that, Hartford Public Library is uniquely positioned to be a hub for early learning and literacy in the City of Hartford by reaching more children with high quality programming; creating learning and teaching communities based upon current and emerging best practices for caregivers throughout the City; and offering caregiver education.

This grant will also allow the Library to purchase Beanstack. This is an early literacy app designed for youth from low-income families who lack internet access at home, but do have smart phones through which they regularly access the web. It will allow home and family providers to:

- create a profile according the children's interest, and reading level,

- resources available at Hartford Public Library will be matched against the profile and they will receive notification of what's available
- come to the Library and check those materials out
- track their children favorite reads on reading logs that will be used as a documented record of the number of books read with the program year

“We are thankful for the support of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation. Understanding the need for early education and the benefits associated with providing all children access to early learning opportunities, leads to robust literacy skills so critical for success,” said Matthew K. Poland, Hartford Public Library’s CEO.

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 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 833,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit www.hplct.org.

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