



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**TRAVELERS CONTINUES SUPPORT TO HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S
TEEN LEADERS INITIATIVE**

Hartford, Connecticut (April 11, 2012) — The Travelers Foundation awarded Hartford Public Library a \$50,000 grant to continue funding for the Library Teen Leaders Initiative. The Library began this Initiative to provide Hartford teens a basic understanding of what is needed to achieve success in both their academic and working careers. The initiative has been in existence for eighteen years, funded primarily by Travelers Foundation in the past four years. With a strong emphasis on career education, job readiness skills, workplace expectations, project management, and personal finance, teens are firmly grounded 21st century skills.

“It is with great pleasure that Travelers Foundation renews its funding to the Library’s Teen Leaders Initiative” said Marlene Ibsen, CEO & President, Travelers Foundation. “This youth development program provides Hartford’s teens with unique on- the-job skills to build awareness and personal readiness for post-secondary education and career opportunities, both of which are critically important for opening doors to future economic opportunity.” The structured experience provided—through library employment, vocational workshops, and individual mentoring with library staff—are all key elements that should serve as a foundation for long-term success.”

Eight teens will be hired for a year and receive a quality job and a salary that exceeds minimum wage, providing a crucial paycheck and a source of pride. As teens work in Homework Clubs, the Summer Reading Program, the Federal Lunch Program, and daily library service, they help impact over 20,000 youth every year. Furthermore, they learn educational and leadership skills that inspire the youth they serve. Teens will also attend a series of educational workshops that will improve their ability to make positive academic and career decisions.

“The Teen Leader Initiative changes the lives of a small group of teens while impacting the lives of many Hartford youth” said Matthew K. Poland, chief executive officer at Hartford Public

Library. Teen Leaders will help lead Homework Clubs with peer-to-peer tutoring, meeting Hartford's Third Grade Promise goals and supporting the advancement of Grade Level Reading. Teens will share in planning a Summer Reading Program that motivates Hartford families to maintain summer learning.

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