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**“BBQ for Books” Restaurant Grand Opening Celebration Raises Funds for
Hartford Public Library**



Bear's Smokehouse BBQ owner Jamie McDonald presents a check for \$1,000 to Donna Haghighat, Chief Development Officer of Hartford Public Library.

HARTFORD, Connecticut (September 12, 2014) - Bear's Smokehouse BBQ celebrated the grand opening of its new Downtown Hartford location Sunday with a day full of fresh food and entertainment to benefit Hartford Public Library. **Over 300 Hartford residents, Library supporters, and BBQ fans** gathered at the bright, modern Bear's BBQ at 89 Arch St. to enjoy wood-smoked, Kansas City-style dishes for a

cause – **20% of the day’s sales, a total of \$1,000, was donated to the Library in support of the many free educational, cultural, and civic programs and services it provides every day.**

“I have loved to read my entire life,” says Jamie McDonald, owner of Bear’s Smokehouse BBQ. “While you can get a book anywhere these days, our libraries provide a very important resource to our community that goes well beyond reading.”

“We’re so appreciative of the support of our new neighbor and wonderful addition to the Downtown Hartford community,” said Matt Poland, CEO of Hartford Public Library. “The generosity of local businesses like Bear’s BBQ makes it possible for us to continue to serve the residents of Hartford with crucial educational programs and learning opportunities every day. We welcome Bear’s to the neighborhood and look forward to lots of future endeavors – and delicious food!”

The grand opening celebration included a musical performance by brass and percussion troupe Hartford Hot Several, as well as a mac & cheese-eating contest and raffles and was enjoyed by diners of all ages.

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 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.

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