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For Immediate Release

February 26, Hartford CT — The Hartford Financial Services Group awarded the Library \$60,000 under the corporate partners initiative. The Hartford is the library's Literacy Partner.

This funding will support a new YOUmedia digital lab at Hartford High School and programs at The American Place.

This funding from The Hartford allows the library to serve the community to address literacy from early childhood to adults, improve resources for immigrants and refugees, offer job and career services, provide access to computers and the Internet, work on digital literacy, refine skills, offer library services through the school district, and present arts and culture programs.

Funding from The Hartford will support:

The creation of YOUmedia @ Hartford High addresses two critical needs in Greater Hartford, specifically for the 1,300 students attending the three academies at Hartford Public High School in Asylum Hill. Firstly, it will provide Equal Access to Technology. Secondly, it will Minimize the Opportunity Gap through inclusive projects that help students: participate in a wide range of activities that expose them to new ideas and educational or economic opportunities; build trusting relationships with caring adults, mentors and industry professionals; and that help students hold themselves to high (but achievable) standards. This will be the second site of YOUmedia Hartford. It envisions reaching every teen in Hartford with high-quality, interest-driven, peer-supported learning opportunities through the Connected Learning model.

Services to immigrants and refugees as one of the Library's core functions. Hartford Public Library has been fully committed to providing a range of educational and immigration services for immigrants since establishing The American Place in 2000. These services include ELL instruction, citizenship test reparation, and assistance with the citizenship application process and innovative strategies that promote immigrant integration.

.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.

Hartford Public Library/500 Main St./Hartford CT 06103