



**CONTACT:**  
Donna Larcen  
Interim Communications Specialist  
Cell: 860-692-8955  
[dlarcen@hplct.org](mailto:dlarcen@hplct.org)

## For Immediate Release

### **Newman's Own Foundation Supports Leap Into Learning**

**Hartford, Connecticut (Feb. 26, 2016)** — Newman's Own Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to support Leap Into Learning Parent/Caregiver Program, a three-year initiative of the Hartford Public Library.

The grant, given in early February, supports the program that is building a network of caring adults to work with Hartford's most at-risk children to help them get ready for kindergarten. The Leap into Learning Parent/Caregiver Program will provide quality early learning and literacy information, best practices, hands-on training, workshops, and resources to address the school readiness skills of children ages birth to 5 years.

This parent/caregiver program focuses on training, the importance of early learning and literacy, and demonstrating how to nurture pre-reading and writing skills. The program will be delivered in partnership with family resources centers at Hartford Public Schools and community agencies. Building on our current early literacy services, the Library will provide monthly educational workshops (hands-on modeling) and develop age appropriate programming based on best practices on how to support children's language and literacy during play.

The Leap into Learning Parent/Caregiver program goals are to increase knowledge of early learning, language and literacy development, and social emotional development in kindergarten preparedness; increase parents and caregivers' ability to create quality home learning environments, and to utilize the lessons learned from the workshops. Also, the program provides access to information, materials and resources within Hartford's early learning and literacy network

Since 1982 all profits from the sale of Newman's Own products, now totaling \$450 million, have been contributed to thousands of nonprofit organizations around the world.

#### **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](http://www.hplct.org).

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