

## **The Stocker Foundation Supports Hartford Public Library's Early Start Summer Learning Program**

—NEWS RELEASE—

(May 1, 2018) The Stocker Foundation awarded a grant in the amount of \$25,500 to Hartford Public Library in support of its 2018 innovative summer learning program. This grant will allow the Library to offer enhanced summer learning opportunities for Hartford students entering grades 1-3 who need extra support in reading.

Funds will purchase books to be kept at home, provide for four family literacy nights throughout the months of July and August, and a two-week, half day Reading Camp at select branch locations in August. These interventions will help stem summer reading loss and create a culture of reading and literacy in each family that participates.

“The foundation of community engagement is literacy and education, and the gateway to literacy and education is the library card. A library card opens the door to free books and information as well as a wide array of learning opportunities,” said HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey. “We are delighted the Stocker Foundation supports us in this critical endeavor.”

The Hartford Public Library Summer Learning Program is designed for all ages and aimed at getting the entire family involved in a summer of reading and learning. The theme this year is “Build a Better World” and kicks off at the Downtown Library on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-3:00 p.m. Participants who complete the program earn a free ticket to the August 24<sup>th</sup> yard Goats Game at Dunkin’ Donuts Park, Hartford.

### **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 national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place that provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. We serve adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Please visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

### **ABOUT THE STOCKER FOUNDATION**

Located in Lorain County, Ohio, The Stocker Foundation is a private family foundation established in 1979 by Beth K. Stocker. Over time, the Foundation has evolved into a mature grant making organization with current approximate assets of \$50 million. Annually, The Stocker Foundation awards an average of \$3.0 million to tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Currently eligible are communities located in Lorain and Cuyahoga counties, Ohio; Pima County, Arizona; Alameda and San Francisco counties, California; Dona Ana County, New Mexico; King County, Washington; and Hartford County, CT. Competitive grantmaking focuses upon lessening the reading literacy achievement gap so that all students

read at or above grade-level by third grade. For more information, please consult [www.stockerfoundation.org](http://www.stockerfoundation.org)