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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Hartford Financial Services Funds Asylum Hill Library Programs**

**December 14, 2016** — Hartford Public Library has received a grant in the amount of \$47,500 from The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. to fund three initiatives: Library-on-Wheels (LOW); Library services at West Middle School; and a sponsorship for the 2017 Beyond Words annual fundraising event.

Hartford Public Library's Library-on-Wheels (LOW) delivers library services to persons who are not served or who are underserved by traditional branches because of physical, economic, social, geographic or other barriers. LOW will visit Asylum Hill neighborhood daycare sites and senior centers on a regular schedule. It will be staffed by a youth services librarian and by a Library assistant. Youth visits will be coordinated with the site directors to determine which classrooms to visit and the number of children and teachers participating. Visits to the adult sites will also be coordinated to maximize the potential of the outreach.

West Middle School, in the heart of the Asylum Hill neighborhood, is a beacon for education and opportunity. Hartford Public Library will support this vibrant public resource by strategically focusing its branch outreach to the parents, guardians and adult learners in the neighborhood. They serve both directly and indirectly as mentors and role models for the children of that community. The Library's West Middle Branch, while still providing access to collections and resources, will strategically focus its programming on its adult literacy efforts, recognizing that the success of the adult learner is linked to the success of the young student in building a strong neighborhood community. Three programs will be operating out of this location:

- An integrated Basic Level English as a Second Language class incorporating contextualized instruction (field trips, real life community activities, virtual tours) to facilitate comprehension of community resources.
- Spanish Language Classes for adults – both professionals and community members – toward building a more cohesive community and to facilitate cross-cultural communication in an increasingly bi-lingual (Spanish/English) community.
- Another component that leads off the Library's adult learner efforts is a new motivational series titled Chief Teale's Tools of Learning. Classes will focus on

learning strategies and are progressive in nature. The retired Hartford fire chief will provide flexible hours for one-on-one tutorials for registered participants throughout the 8-week session. Since his retirement, Teale has been active both as an author and as an instructor for Hartford Adult Education.