



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

FEEDING CURIOSITY,
INSPIRING LEARNING:

WE
STACKED
UP.

 Hartford
Public Library
A place like no other.

A MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW K. POLAND, CEO

How did we stack up this year? Sure, there are numbers expressed in graphs and pie charts in this report, but what really gave this year its purpose, vitality and promise?

It was the people who came into ten branches that anchor our neighborhoods to use more than 300 public access computers and free WiFi, to attend programs celebrating our diversity, financial workshops, and author talks, to look for jobs and find them, to appreciate history and art, to listen to the sweet sound of jazz and to become citizens of our great nation.

And when you add in the people who visited the Library digitally, there were nearly **1 million visits this year**.

Yes, we did stack up because of our unwavering dedication to making **Hartford Public Library** a center for learning for every man, woman, and child in our great city.

And it was a supportive board of directors, a creative and responsive staff, led by a dedicated senior leadership team, deeply committed elected officials at the City, State and Federal levels, and our extraordinarily generous private sector donors who continue to make our library **a place like no other**. Thank you for your engagement in this work.



Onward to 2014.

**Our mission:
to provide free
resources that inspire
reading, guide
learning, and
encourage individual
exploration.**

With 10 locations in the City of Hartford, we have more than 833,000 visits per year. Our services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Our programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in citizenship training, literacy, business skills, cultural awareness and more.

To learn more about the library, please see www.hplct.org

“Indeed, the Library has established itself as the center of the community in Hartford.”

THE HARTFORD COURANT



FAST FACT

CITIZENSHIP
CLASSES:

217

2,661
ATTENDED

FEEDING CURIOSITY

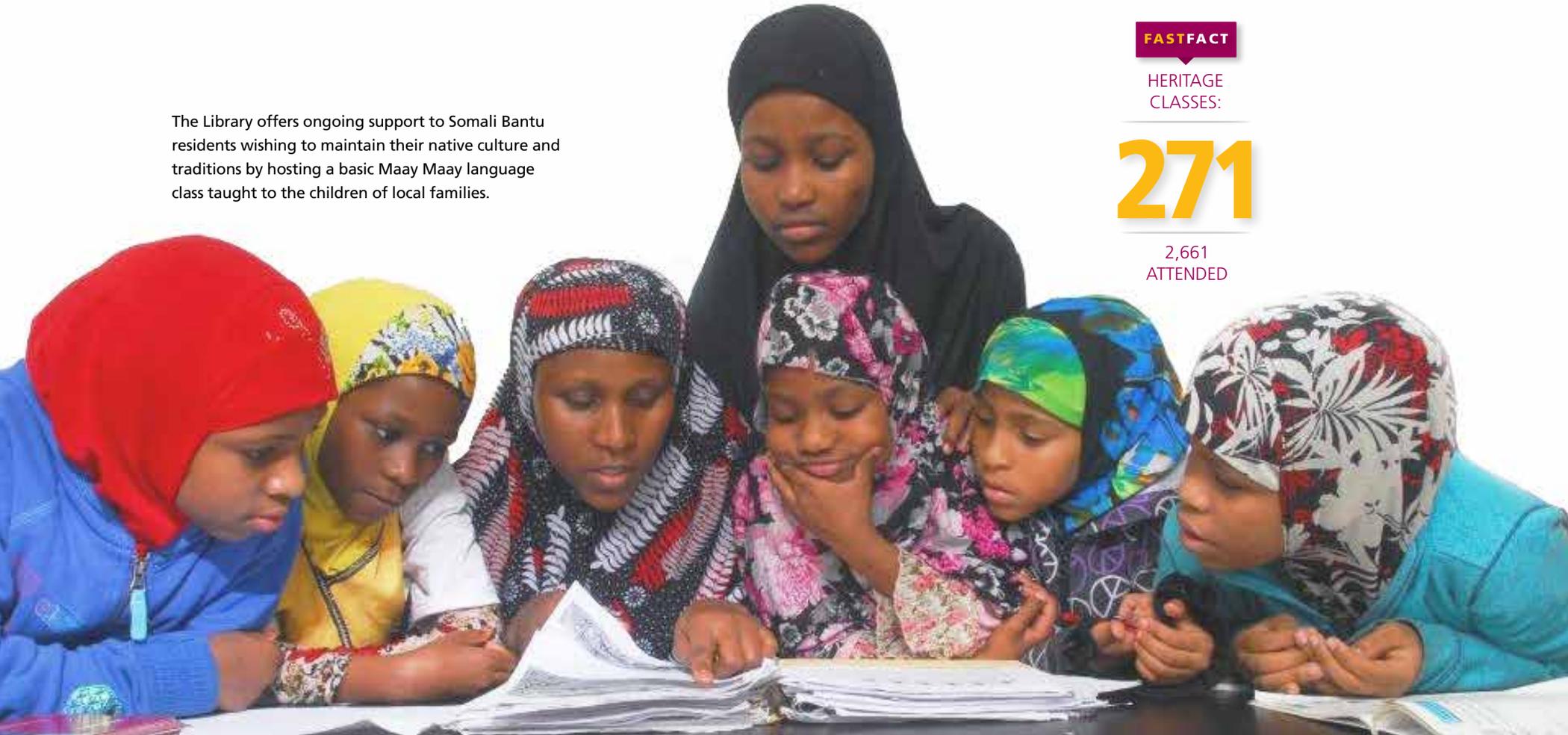
The Library offers ongoing support to Somali Bantu residents wishing to maintain their native culture and traditions by hosting a basic Maay Maay language class taught to the children of local families.

FASTFACT

HERITAGE
CLASSES:

271

2,661
ATTENDED



"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

WALT DISNEY

THE AMERICAN PLACE

<http://www.hplct.org/library-services/immigration-citizenship>



At the core of The American Place mission is the building of relationships between people of like and unlike backgrounds—key ingredients for promoting immigrant civic integration. In collaboration with the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association, the Library convened two Welcoming Events.

This family of six from Pakistan all became U.S. citizens on the same day. Cultural Navigator April Adams volunteered for several months to help Nailah (the mother) prepare for her Citizenship test. The Cultural Navigator Program is designed to recruit and train volunteers to help guide new arrival immigrants as they adjust to living in Hartford. Their contributions are priceless!



CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC EXPLORATION

www.hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits



The Library feeds the cultural curiosity of our local community with a variety of inspiring and stimulating offerings that engage local artists, performers and arts organizations. As part of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra (HSO) program called “Musical Dialogues Series,” HSO and Hartford Public Library hosted the free musical performance “Mozart on Main Street” in the Atrium of the Downtown Library in June, thanks to sponsorship support from Travelers.

ONE BOOK ONE HARTFORD

Marilyn Nelson’s book, “A Wreath For Emmett Till,” was featured for this year’s **One Book One Hartford**, the citywide book club.

FASTFACT

LITERARY,
PERFORMANCE
AND VISUAL
ARTS PROGRAMS:

132

56,151
PEOPLE
ATTENDED





ARTWALK

www.artwalk.hplct.org

The library creatively engaged the local artistic and writing community with an exhibit, “A Study in Lace” by the Hartford Artisan Weavers and by hosting Pitchapalooza—a chance for local writers to pitch their books with the winner receiving an introduction to a literary agent. The Library’s popular ArtWalk drew crowds once again and featured local international artists including Frans Lanting, National Geographic photographer, and JoeSam, mixed media artist. The ArtWalk also featured **There’s a Map for That**, organized by *Connecticut Explored Magazine*, which traced how Hartford has been explored and mapped over time.

NEW AUDIENCE

New this year, **I LIKE BIG BOOKS** brought Ross Martin, Executive Vice President at Viacom Media Networks, who runs Scratch, a creative swat team driving innovation across the company, to speak before an engaged, youthful crowd of mostly millennials.

CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Library’s Center for Civic Engagement fosters civic curiosity and community engagement. Three candidate forums were conducted as part of the Library’s Center for Civic Engagement. Pictured here is a candidate forum for State representatives moderated by Tom Condon of the *Hartford Courant*.



Another key component of the Center for Civic Engagement is the Community Information Hub Project, funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Project partners include the Library, the Foundation, Connecticut News Project/ Connecticut Mirror, and WNPR. The photo at right shows Ted Carroll of Leadership Greater Hartford facilitating the Hub project program *Help Wanted! What you need to know about job training programs*.



FASTFACT

PUBLIC
COMPUTER
SESSIONS

171,419

INSPIRING LEARNING



Pictured: participants of our Teen Leaders Program

"I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship."

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

"Working here exposed me to new skills that I'll carry with me."

ALEXIUS PIMIENTA, AGE 15



TEEN LEADERS INITIATIVE

Now in its fifth year, the Teen Leaders program offers a select group of teens the opportunity to coordinate homework club activities and mentor younger children through the summer and into the school year. The teens gain a basic understanding of what is needed to achieve academic and work success. The program is offered thanks to the generosity of Travelers, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo.



"I got to learn what it's like to have a job and how to be responsible for being on time and money management."

FRANCES JAYNES, AGE 16

FASTFACT

YOUTH
HOMEWORK
ASSISTANCE
SESSIONS

41,511

CHILDREN'S LITERACY

www.hplct.org/library-services/kids

Each summer, thousands of children participate in the Library's Great Summer Read. The Library is the only provider of programming, encouragement and free access to books during the summer. The Great Summer Read ensures that children will not fall behind.

Our early literacy programs offer opportunities for Hartford's youngest residents and their caregivers to explore pre-reading and pre-writing with age-appropriate toys, books, and programming.

Our popular after-school programs provide that critical "third space" for Hartford's youth. Children have a safe place to go after school where they are served a healthy snack and receive homework assistance before they go home.

Jayson J. Grados, a 2nd grader at America's Choice at S.A.N.D. School, is just one of the children who is performing better in school thanks to the help he received at the Library. Jason's mom works nights, leaving Jason in the care of his grandfather, who only speaks Spanish. The Grados family turned to the Library for homework assistance. Our staff helped Jason get his homework done and improve his grades.



"The service provided was incredible and the level of professionalism is awesome. I have continuously been at the library and will always be here because I always get a lot of attention."

CHARLES COFFIE



JOB DEVELOPMENT

www.hplct.org/library-services/job-career

Charles Coffie is one of the nearly 6,000 customers who received job and career assistance right in the Library from our staff, CTWorks and Capitol Work Force Partners. Each year, many individuals like Charles benefit from this partnership between CTWorks and HPL. Thanks to the guidance that Charles received, he is now a sales associate at WalMart in Hartford.

Shelley McEwan, a veteran, has experienced not one but two layoffs. She was able to get back on her feet with the help of the Library. "I took advantage of computer classes offered and taught by the Library staff on job search, resume templates and more. I always learned something new from each facilitator. In addition to computer courses, I also attended general information courses offered for insights, inspiration, and further knowledge. I checked out a host of books on job searching techniques, resume writing, networking and other relevant topics to assist me with my job search."

FASTFACT

JOB AND
CAREER
CLASSES

182

5,843
ATTENDED



WE STACKED UP



*"I guess we all like to be recognized not for one piece of fireworks,
but for the ledger of our daily work."*

NEIL ARMSTRONG

2013 AWARDS

LIBRARYAWARE AWARD

www.hplct.org/assets/uploads/files/about/in-the-news/PR032713.pdf

Hartford Public Library received third place and a \$5,000 prize in a North American competition designed to honor libraries that connect with their communities. Sponsored by Library Journal and funded by EBSCO Publishing's NoveList Division, the LibraryAware Community Award recognized the Library's exceptional engagement with its city, and was awarded to only three libraries in the nation.

THE WHITE HOUSE CHAMPION OF CHANGE AWARD

www.hplct.org/assets/uploads/files/about/in-the-news/PR051513_2.pdf

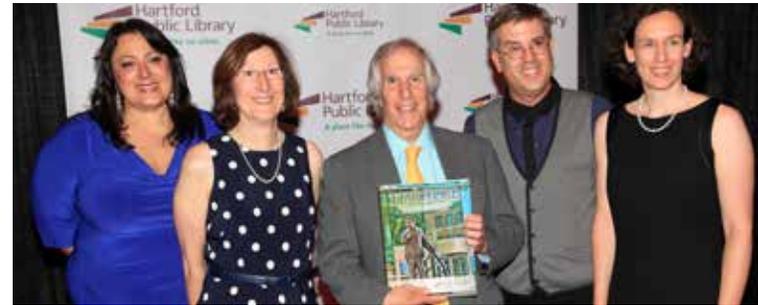
This award was given to HPL's Homa Naficy in recognition for her work providing educational services, learning opportunities, and programming for immigrants and refugees through The American Place, which Naficy founded at the Library. The award was given by The White House as part of an initiative with the Institute of Museum and Library services (IMLS).

URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL 2013 TOP INNOVATORS AWARD

HPL received Honorable Mention for the Library's Center for Civic Engagement, established to support community change, foster development of a community vision, contribute to a stronger community and establish a civic engagement model. The center builds on the library's long-standing commitment to civic engagement and connects diverse programs into a coordinated community-building strategy.

2013 IMLS NATIONAL MEDAL FINALIST

Hartford Public Library was selected as a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Services. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to the community. It celebrates libraries and museums that make a difference for individuals, families and communities.



ONE BIG HAPPY SUMMER NIGHT

Hundreds of enthusiastic supporters attended the Library's annual gala, **One Big Happy Summer Night**, at the CT Convention Center on June 20.

The event, presented by **Connecticut Light & Power**, featured guest speaker **Henry Winkler**, actor, director, producer, philanthropist, and best-selling author. **Duby McDowell**, political analyst and president of Duby McDowell Communications, was master of ceremonies.

Thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors and individuals, this signature event raises net income to support and sustain library programming and services. The Library's One Big Happy Summer Night gala was the kick-off for raising nearly \$24,000 for YOUmedia, a digital learning space that will prepare teens for lives and careers in the digital age.



LIBRARY ON WHEELS CAMPAIGN

The Library on Wheels campaign kicked off at the 2011 One Big Nearly Summer Night, with a goal of raising \$150,000. Thanks to a single gift of \$75,000 from The Hartford and the generosity of many individual donors, we raised over \$152,000, and the new Library on Wheels was proudly displayed at the entrance to the CT Convention Center at this year's **One Big Happy Summer Night**. This state-of-the-art new vehicle will restore mobile library service to residents throughout the city.

DWIGHT BRANCH RENOVATION

In December, the completely renovated Dwight Branch was reopened. The branch, which opened in 1907, is located at a busy intersection in the heart of the Parkville neighborhood, where it connects to the Parkville Elementary School and the Parkville Senior Center. The expanded branch increases its capacity to 2,200 square feet, allowing the Library to increase its scope of programs and services.



FAST FACT

LIBRARY VISITS

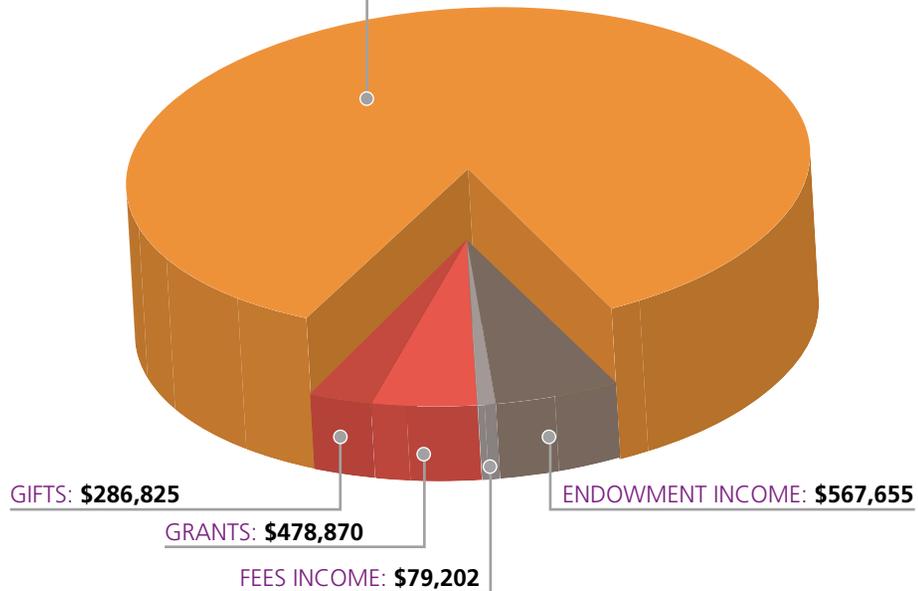
833,651

FINANCIALS

REVENUE

\$9,627,552

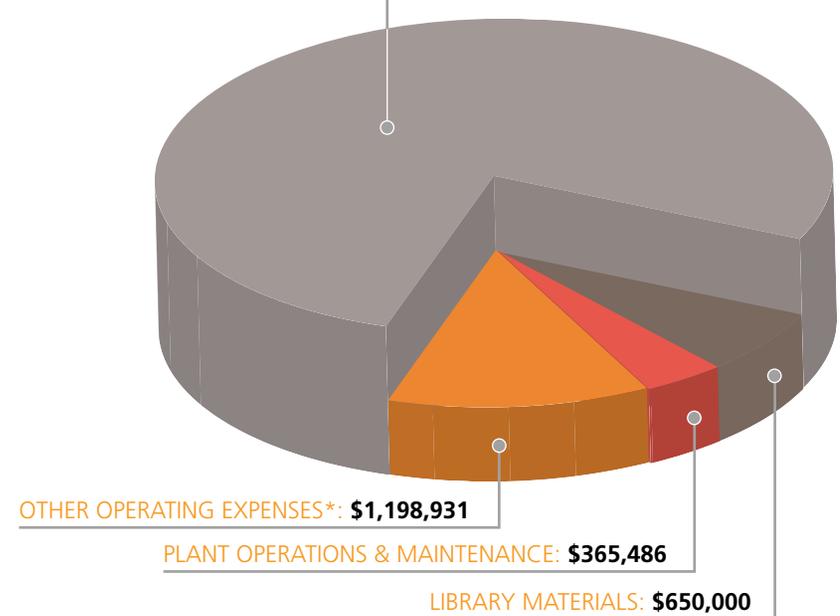
CITY CONTRIBUTION: \$8,215,000



EXPENSES

\$9,627,552

PERSONNEL COSTS: \$8,215,000



A LETTER FROM THEA MONTAÑEZ, CHAIR OF BOARD

This year marks the second year I've had the privilege of serving as President of the Library's Board of Directors. It has been and continues to be an extremely enriching experience, providing endless opportunities to learn and grow.

As I reflect on the lessons I've learned during that time, I consider my greatest teachers to be the children, adults and families we've served throughout our ten library branches. It's been because of our immigrant and refugee patrons and their determination to gain citizenship that I've been reminded of the value of our freedom. It's been because of our job seekers' perseverance to secure employment despite their personal challenges that I've learned the resilience of the human spirit. And it's been because of our parents and their commitment to give their children a better life that I've understood the power of love.

In addition to these life lessons, I've also learned about the transformative power of philanthropy and its impact on our ability to provide quality programming and services to our community. I am



grateful for the generosity of my fellow directors, dedicated staff and all those that supported us in 2012-2013. In addition, we thank the Mayor, City Council and all of our community partners for recognizing that with their help, we can do more and be better!

I look forward to learning more in the year ahead!

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AAA Allied Group
Aaron Hollander Fund
Absynnian Restaurant
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Aflac
All In Its Place
Amenta/Emma Architects, PC
American Clock and Watch Museum
American Library Association
Anonymous
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
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Capital Workforce Partners, Inc.
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City of Hartford
City Steam Brewery Cafe

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Hartford Business Journal
Hartford Community Loan Fund
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Hartford Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union
Hartford Public Library
Hartford Public Schools
Hartford Restaurant Group
Hartford Stage
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Harvey & Lewis Opticians
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Industrial Paper & Plastic Products Co., Inc.
Infogroup Inc. / Reference USA
Innovative Interfaces, Inc.
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Japanalia
JetBlue Airways
Kellie Burke Interiors
Kiddlywinks
Kimberly Boutique
Kinsella and Kowalyszyn, LLC
Knox Parks Foundation
La Paloma Sabanera
Landmark Partners LLC
Leadership Greater Hartford, Inc.
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Lena's First & Last Pizzeria Restaurant
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Local Color Ink
Lutz Children's Museum
Lyn Evans Potpourri Designs
MassMutual
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Max Restaurant Group
McKinnon's Irish Pub
McPhee Foundation
MDM Golf Enterprises LLC
Meredith Corporation Foundation Employee
Contribution Program
Metro Bis Restaurant
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Metropolitan District Commission

Midwest Tapes
Mind Your Manor Inc.
Mohegan Sun
Moody Consulting Firm
Munsons Chocolates
Mystic Seaport
Mystic Whaler Cruises Inc.
New Britain Museum of American Art
New Ends Hair Salon
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Newman's Own, Inc.
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People's United Bank
Playhouse On Park
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Professional Pest Control, Inc.
Pro-Film Professional Window Tinting
Project Oceanology
Pullman & Comley
QSR Steel Corporation
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Rave Motion Pictures
Real Art Ways
Recorded Books LLC/REI Digital
Reliable Auto Tire Co., Inc.
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Rockville Bank
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Shoptimize LLC
Siegel, O'Connor, O'Donnell, & Beck, P.C.
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Ski Sundown
Sol de Borinquen Bakery
Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.
Spanish American Merchants Assn.
Spiritus Wines
Spotlight Theatres
Stanley Black & Decker

Stanley Golf Course
Stanley-Whitman House: A Museum of Early
American History
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The Village for Families & Children, Inc.
The Waterford Group Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The Yard Group
Thomas Hooker Brewing Co.
Toast Wines
Travelers Companies
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United Technologies Matching Gift & Volunteer
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United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut
United Way Of Pioneer Valley, Inc.
University of Connecticut Libraries
Valvoline Instant Oil Change
Vito's By The Park
Wadsworth Atheneum
Wattsaver Lighting Products, Inc.
Wells Fargo
Wells Fargo Private Bank
West Indian Foundation, Inc.
William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund
Willimantic Brewing Company / Main Street Cafe
Wood-n-Tap Bar and Grill
Woody's
XL Specialty Insurance Company

IN KIND

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CT Public Broadcasting, Inc.
Hartford Distributors, Inc.
Lisa Kempf Design
John Alves Graphic Design
Marketing Solutions Unlimited
The Pita Group

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*	DECEASED

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