

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **Hoffman Auto Group Helps Hartford Public Library Take a 'Leap Into Learning'**

**Hartford, Connecticut (May 4, 2015)** - The Hoffman Auto Group has donated a 2015 Ford Transit to the Hartford Public Library to support a new and critical program to help children receive the educational advantages needed for success.

With the gift of the new Ford Transit, more children and families will be provided the resources to increase their children's preparedness for kindergarten. Ranie Busgith, Early Literacy Librarian, is now able to bring the library to families as well as offer needed transportation for programming. "Hartford Public Library is thrilled to receive the generous gift of the Leap Into Literacy van from Hoffman Auto Group," said Anne Melissa Dowling, President of the Hartford Public Library Board of Directors. "We know, from the work that is being done by Ranie, that our community outreach is the key to helping our youngest residents arrive at kindergarten having reached all the developmental milestones necessary to succeed. The Leap Into Learning

van will enable us to do more of this outreach, and to transport preschoolers to the Library for educational visits."

Alison Coolbrith, Barry Lastra and Sandra and Howard Fromson presented the new Hartford Public Library initiative called "Leap Into Learning," which was designed to provide Hartford's young children the preparation to enter Kindergarten with the skills required to achieve and continue on a lifelong path of learning and growth. A startling 67% of students entering Kindergarten are not adequately prepared, making learning a greater challenge as they struggle with limited resources to catch- up, according to research conducted by The Bissell Foundation.

"Our community thrives when children are given opportunities to learn and develop into successful young men and women," said I. Bradley Hoffman, Co-Chairman, Hoffman Auto Group. Hoffman continued, "It is important for local businesses to join together and help establish the infrastructure supporting families in the community."

The good news is for every dollar spent on students the research shows a reduction of seven dollars required for remediation. Sadly, remediation usually does not occur until the first year in college so it is vital to provide early intervention programs. "It is important to do equitable things and have services for everyone," stated Matthew Poland, Chief Executive Officer, Hartford Public Library. He continued, "Everyone should have a chance for their children to enter school and be well prepared."

Jeffrey S. Hoffman, Co-Chairman, Hoffman Auto Group, agreed "The city of Hartford is growing and boasts a competitive employment environment but we must not forget to boost the educational opportunities for our young people as well."

#### **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 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

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