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Contact: Mary F. Crean, 860.695.6360, [mcrean@hplct.org](mailto:mcrean@hplct.org)

### **NewAlliance Foundation Awards Hartford Public Library Grant for New Summer Reading Initiative**

**Hartford, Connecticut (March 16, 2012)** — The NewAlliance Foundation awarded Hartford Public Library with a \$5,000 grant that will provide funds to build a new Summer Reading Program. The program will provide entertaining activities, open-ended workshops with knowledgeable mentors, and exposure to imaginative books. It will focus on activities that improve grade-level proficiency by decreasing summer learning loss and will motivate Hartford youth and families to achieve greater summer reading gains and increase grade level proficiency while meeting the goals outlined by the Campaign for Grade Level Reading.

“NewAlliance Foundation is delighted to support Hartford Public Library’s new “Dream Big, Read” Summer Reading Program because of its comprehensive approach in reaching children birth to 18”, said Kim A. Healey, Executive Director. “We were impressed by the Library’s formation of a citywide coalition that will work together to align with the goals of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading which has also inspired the Foundation in its literacy grant making. It is critically important that children maintain and improve their grade-level proficiency during the summer so that they are ready to learn when they return to school in the fall. Hartford Public Library’s innovative and creative approach to this effort is exciting and groundbreaking.”

This new Summer Reading Program will target more than two thousand students, birth to age 18, with the Collaborative Summer Library Program themes “Dream Big, Read,” and “Own the Night.” The Library will recruit youth and families with children ages birth to 18 by forming a citywide coalition that will include Hartford schools, neighborhood centers, preschools, daycares, summer school programs, museums, and other youth service organizations. Schools will also recruit students by presenting the program as an integral component of summer reading, with students enrolled in summer sessions being strongly encouraged to participate.

“We are grateful for the NewAlliance Foundation’s support of the Library’s new Summer Reading initiative. With a grand Summer Reading kickoff and quality incentives, the Library will attract youth and families in large numbers, and make the summer reading program a regular

part of Hartford's summer fun," said Matthew K. Poland, Hartford Public Library's chief executive officer.

### **About Hartford Public Library**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org) and the library's new blog at [blogs.hplct.org](http://blogs.hplct.org)

### **About NewAlliance Foundation**

As an independent charitable foundation, the mission of NewAlliance Foundation is to provide financial support to charitable organizations addressing diverse community needs in the arts, community development, health & human services and youth & education. A segment of our grant making is targeted toward programs which empower people through the development of literacy skills.