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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Stocker Foundation supports Hartford Public Library's The Summer of Power!

Hartford, Connecticut (April 28, 2015) - The Stocker Foundation announced a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to Hartford Public Library in support of its 2015 innovative summer learning program for Prekindergarten through grade three, The Summer of Power!

Hartford Public Library's Summer of Power will serve 4,500 - 5,500 Hartford students during the all-important summer months, and challenge them to find their inner power, discover new ideas, develop their talents, become proficient readers, and embrace a college-going culture. Designed around a superhero theme, and supported by materials from the Collaborative Summer Library Program (an organization that provides thematic summer materials at a discount to participating libraries) it will encourage children to find the superhero power that rests inside each of them as they have a fantastic time learning and reading.

Motivational activities for young readers and their families/caregivers include the participation of super-hero teen volunteers, outstanding high school students who lead weekly read-aloud programs, assist with programming, and serve as role models for young children. Interns from local colleges also assist with reading and program activities. Children will also be encouraged to read with the possibility of earning prizes, including age-appropriate electronic devices as grand prizes. Organized in collaboration with the Hartford Public Schools and the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, the program will support reading and learning initiatives throughout the city.

"Research shows that more than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college," said Matt Poland, chief executive officer for Hartford Public Library. "With an intentional focus on educational activities during the summer, we can ensure that our children are safe, healthy, and engaged in learning this summer."

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.

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