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

**Hartford, Connecticut (March 13, 2013)** — Hartford Public Library just announced that it has received a \$5,000 grant from the NewAlliance Foundation in New Haven for the Library's Summer Reading Program. This program supports and motivates Hartford youth to both build a positive relationship with their public library and to make the summer a time to achieve new proficiency in reading.

"The NewAlliance Foundation was impressed with the launch and success of the Library's Summer Reading Program in the summer of 2012, and is pleased to continue to support those efforts in summer of 2013," said NewAlliance Executive Director Kim A. Healey. "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. We love what Hartford Public Library is doing."

This year's award furthers the Summer Reading Program introduced in 2012, and will help engage youth in a program that emphasizes reading as pleasurable and rewarding. It also helps underwrite the costs of children working with artists, dancers, scientists and educators in participatory workshops. Youth will track their reading and will receive small incentives for the numbers of books they read and for the amount of time they spend reading.

Also among this year's goals for the Library's Summer Reading Program are to register at least 3,400 youth in the program, and to increase the numbers of books read and time spent reading over last year's totals. Other goals are to increase the amount of time adults and children registered in the program read together, and to increase the amount of time youth and teen program participants spend reading when they are not in school.

"We are just delighted to have the NewAlliance Foundation award, and to be honored this way for a second consecutive year," said Library Chief Executive Officer Matthew K. Poland. "This award will help us build on what we started last summer, and to draw in more children and more parents and caregivers to our Summer Reading Program. This is fun that translates into improved literacy and enrichment for their whole lives."

### **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 865,000 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. According to a recent editorial in *The Hartford Courant*, "Indeed, the Library has established itself as the center of the community in Hartford." To learn more about the library, please see [www.hplct.org](http://www.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 and human services, and youth and education. A segment of the foundation's grant making is targeted toward programs which empower people through the development of literacy skills. To learn more about the foundation, please see [www.newalliancefoundation.org](http://www.newalliancefoundation.org)