

# Here to help. Here to stay.

## YMCA to Build Facilities in Greater Hartford

The Hartford Foundation awarded a grant of \$1 million to the YMCA of Greater Hartford for the construction of two new facilities on Albany Avenue in North Hartford and in Ellington.

Both facilities will offer year-round child care, a teen center available for alcohol- and drug-free celebrations, accredited day camps, health and wellness center, a rock climbing wall staffed by trainers, and sports programs. The Ellington facility will have a year-round indoor pool.

The YMCA facility in Ellington will serve over 12,000 children and families from the towns of Vernon, Tolland, Coventry, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Somers, South Windsor, and Stafford.

The YMCA in North Hartford will reach 4,000 to 6,000 children and families in Hartford's Clay/Arsenal, Upper Albany, North Meadows and Northeast neighborhoods. The North Hartford Y will collaborate with Community Health Services, Urban League of Greater Hartford, and the City of Hartford to provide services.

"This significant grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving will enable the YMCA campaign to move forward with the North Hartford and East of the River initiatives. Both our initiatives are about collaboration, children, families, neighborhoods and communities," said Kevin Washington, president and CEO, YMCA of Greater Hartford. "Research has shown that a YMCA is a stabilizing force for neighborhoods and the heart of a healthy community."

The Foundation's \$1 million grant provides the YMCA the opportunity to leverage up to an additional \$2.5 million in private and foundation funding.



*Checking out the climbing wall at an area YMCA are board and staff of the YMCA and Mark Korber (second from left), board chair, and Linda Kelly (on the right), president, of the Hartford Foundation.*

## Granby Seniors Find Opportunities for Adventure

Today's seniors want to be active and have fun — and towns are increasingly seeking to provide these opportunities. The Town of Granby is now offering such programs as kayaking, rock-climbing and scuba-diving, and seniors are enthusiastically participating. An added benefit is that the groups involve other — younger — residents as well.

A grant from the Hartford Foundation is helping the Town of Granby provide these and other intergenerational and adventure-based programming through its senior center. The programs are coordinated by the senior center program coordinator and youth service counselor.

The grant was supported by the Mildred C. Allison and the Laura E. Holcomb funds at the Foundation. Laura Emma Holcomb (1888-1980) was the daughter of Samuel and Lizzie Holcomb, whose dairy farm land — Holcomb Farm — now belongs to the Town of Granby.



*Granby residents enjoy a snowshoeing expedition organized jointly by the senior center and youth services.*



*Readers discuss Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston at a recent event hosted by Hartford Public Library.*

## The Big Read

Throughout February and March, Hartford Public Library brought readers from across the region together to share Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Over 2,000 students and 1,800 adults attended book discussions, performances and other activities featuring authors, poets, storytellers, and musicians at 11 schools and 10 libraries in Hartford and neighboring towns.

This was all part of The Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and funded by the Hartford Foundation.

The Foundation's certification in 2006 as being in compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations by the Council on Foundations made it eligible to participate in a "double-matching" grant for The Big Read from the NEA and the Kellogg Foundation. This allowed Hartford Public Library effectively to triple its original grant from the NEA.

## A Birthday Gift that Lasts

Charles Lindberg, of Simsbury, was looking for an extra special gift to commemorate his wife's 75th birthday last year. The Lindbergs had established a donor-advised fund at the Hartford Foundation in 2002, and Mr. Lindberg thought a new fund in his wife's name would be just the thing.

"She was touched," said Mr. Lindberg. "After 50 years of marriage, jewelry doesn't count anymore. Creating the fund was perfect."

As a successful financial advisor serving clients in Greater Hartford, Mr. Lindberg had often referred clients to the Hartford Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Lindberg involve their four adult children, who all live in the area, in recommending grants from their fund, and will do the same with the new fund. Their fund has supported agencies such as the Farmington Valley VNA, Simsbury Land Trust, Granby Ambulance Association, and House of Bread, among others.

"We have been very fortunate," said Mr. Lindberg, "and we enjoy sharing this philanthropic experience as a family."



## Arts Marketing Initiative Deemed a Success

An independent evaluation of the Foundation's Arts Marketing Initiative reports that the participating agencies benefited from increased revenues as well as an increased marketing capacity.

"This is an exemplary program that could be successfully replicated," according to the evaluator, Craig Dreezen of Dreezen & Associates. "The multiple-year program blending funding, professional assistance, and peer learning works well."

The Arts Marketing Initiative was launched in 1998 after arts leaders cited marketing as their greatest need during roundtable discussions hosted by the Foundation. Investing nearly \$2.5 million over six years, the Foundation provided comprehensive support including professional instruction, on-site assistance, marketing planning, peer learning, and funding to implement marketing plans.

The agencies that successfully completed the initiative are The Artists Collective, Chamber Music Plus, Hill-Stead Museum, Little Theatre of Manchester, and Real Art Ways.

## In Other News

**David M. Borden** and **Robert B. Goldfarb**, both of West Hartford, joined the Foundation's Board of Directors in January.

Mr. Borden is Senior Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. Mr. Borden has made significant contributions to Connecticut's justice system, having served as one of the five original members of the Connecticut Appellate Court and executive director of the Commission to Revise the Criminal Statutes of the State of Connecticut. He serves on the board of the Justice Education Center, and is a senior fellow with the American Leadership Forum. He also served on the steering committee for Leadership Greater Hartford's Common Ground, a youth leadership training program.



David Borden



Robert Goldfarb

Mr. Goldfarb is president of HRW Resources, Inc. in Farmington, a real estate development, management and investment firm. An active community volunteer, Mr. Goldfarb has served on the boards of many area organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and American School for the Deaf. He has served in leadership roles on several boards, including chair of the Jewish Community Foundation, vice chair of Hebrew Healthcare, and vice president of the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts.

**Stephen Marshall** has joined the Foundation as gift manager. He previously served as a senior accountant at Kostin, Ruffkess & Company and as an accounting clerk for United Technologies Corporation.



**Jessica Angelo-Julien** has also joined the gift management team as administrative assistant. Her background includes work as a human resources contract consultant and an administrative assistant.



**Meghan McLaughlin** joined the program department as an administrative assistant, where she provides support for the After-School Initiative, summer grants program, and other grantmaking. Meghan previously worked for several nonprofits.



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**Mark F. Korber,**  
Board chair

**Linda J. Kelly,**  
President



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## Catalyst Endowment Breaks Records

A record 180 members joined the Foundation's Catalyst Endowment Fund in 2006 and it awarded \$50,000 in grants — more than ever before.

Members examined adult literacy and learned about the challenges — such as reading job applications and prescription instructions — facing people with low literacy skills. They studied barriers inhibiting people's success in becoming literate, particularly finding the time to attend programs while holding down a job and raising a family.

In early February, members reviewed and discussed grant proposals and voted to award the following grants:

- \$25,075 to Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford to add computers and software to offer courses in math, English literacy, job search and readiness, and computer skills to low literate adults.
- \$24,960 for a pilot project at Hartford Public Library to provide computer-assisted reading, writing and math instruction for older teens and adults who are homeless.

Members of the Catalyst Endowment Fund examine a new issue each year — such as children's health, revitalizing the region, and leadership in Greater Hartford. Since 1993, the group has awarded more than \$375,000 in grants to address these and other issues. The 2007 topic is *Truancy: A Family and Community Matter*.

Eleanor Barnes of West Hartford attended her first Catalyst voting meeting this year. "I came away with two great senses of community," she said. "First, a sense of community with other members as we discussed, debated and decided among ourselves how we could most effectively improve literacy. The second, and perhaps even more satisfying sense of community, came from putting our intentions into action, and helping others in Greater Hartford."



*Students and tutors of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford, supported in part by a Catalyst Endowment grant.*

**For more information about Catalyst, visit [www.hfpg.org/Catalyst](http://www.hfpg.org/Catalyst) or call the Foundation at 548-1888.**