



**Hartford Foundation**  
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

*Greater  
Hartford's  
community  
foundation  
since 1925*



*The Hartford Promise 2025 induction ceremony, featuring members of the inaugural class of Greater Futures Scholarship recipients*

## The First Class of Greater Futures Scholars Heads Off to College

In April, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and Hartford Promise announced a milestone initiative meant to support Hartford students and combat the rising cost of college: [The Greater Futures Scholarship Fund](#).

With a \$20 million initial investment from the Foundation, and support from some very generous donors, this first-of-its-kind program will offer scholarships of up to \$100,000 to every Hartford Promise student.

This month, the first class of Greater Futures Scholars — more than 100 students — heads off to college. Within three years, when the

program includes four classes of Scholars, we expect to support 500 students. We believe this will have a transformational effect on Greater Hartford as students graduate, return home, and begin productive careers without the constraints of student debt. For now, we wish the initial Greater Futures Scholars best of luck as they begin college. We look forward to seeing how you progress, and we know you'll make us proud!

---



### Meet the Scholars: Joanel

Joanel was raised by three women, his mother and two older sisters. He shares, "I work hard to be a better version of myself every day." Football became the place he pushed himself hardest, earning accolades and scholarship offers along the way. The Greater Futures Scholarship gave him the chance to choose what he needed most. He is heading to the University of Hartford to study engineering, determined to fast-track his new career and give back to his family. [Watch his story here.](#)

---



## Meet the Scholars: Angelin

When Angelin Gomez Velez first heard the news about the Greater Futures Scholarship, she didn't believe it. "It really did throw that burden off of me... having to worry about the money," she said. As the oldest child and first to go to college, she carries the invisible load of being the one to break new ground. Her younger siblings study her every move, their futures shaped by what she shows is possible.

She is heading to UConn as an education major, her sights set on one day standing at the front of a high school English class. She knows being the example isn't easy. There are no road map, no parental playbook, but she's committed. "I really do want to be their role model."

For her, the scholarship is proof that long nights at the desk and deadlines met in the quiet hours can light the path for her family. It's the first step toward her own classroom, and toward a future where her siblings' road may be a little smoother.

---

**Want to learn about other Greater Futures Scholars? Follow us on social for more.**





## More Than \$400,000 in Grants Awarded to Support Basic Human Needs

The Hartford Foundation has awarded **Basic Human Needs Emergency Assistance Grants to 36 nonprofits**, totaling more than **\$400,000**. In an effort to achieve equity, these grants prioritize nonprofits serving neighborhoods with a higher percentage of residents living in poverty. With the rising cost of groceries, most of this year's grants were food-related; however, they also include clothing, personal care items, and emergency financial aid assistance. [Learn more and see a list of organizations receiving grants.](#)

---

## A Message to Our Nonprofit Partners

As your community foundation, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving was created to provide steady support to Greater Hartford in times of growth and in times of uncertainty. We remain committed to navigating the current changing landscape with our community partners, listening and learning how policy and budget changes are affecting our region and Connecticut. [Read more.](#)

---



## Social Enterprise Accelerator: Hartford Foundation Will Match Donations Until Sept 17

Our **Social Enterprise Accelerator** was designed to help nonprofits create new business ventures that raise revenue and support each organization's mission and long-term stability. The latest group of participating nonprofits have planned their



ventures and are currently raising capital to get started. From now until September 17, the Hartford Foundation is offering to match your donations, up to \$30,000 per nonprofit.

[Read about the Social Enterprise Accelerator](#), hear from the nonprofits, and learn how you can support their ventures.



## Hartford Public Schools Back-to-School Celebration

On Tuesday, August 19, Hartford Public Schools held its annual **Back-to-School Celebration** at Dunkin' Park, distributing backpacks, books, and other school supplies to Hartford students. The Hartford Foundation was proud to sponsor this event for the fifth year in a row. An estimated 4,000 students and family members attended, including Hartford's new superintendent of schools. NBC Connecticut did a story on the event, [which you can watch here](#).



---

## Join Us For a Giving Circles Event!

This year, the Catalyst Endowment Fund, Latino Endowment Fund, and Black Giving Circle Fund are coming together around a shared focus: **Empowering Post-Secondary Success: Diverse Pathways to Opportunity.**

Join us for the second installment of our donor education series exploring this topic. A panel of experts will spotlight the often-unseen supports that help students succeed after high school with a focus on mental health and wellness, vocational and college access, mentoring, and retention strategies.

**Tuesday, September 9 | 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Hartford Public Library, Downtown Branch**

[Register to Attend](#)

---

## Improving Our Grants Process, Using Feedback From Nonprofits

In 2023, we launched a Post-Application Survey, which we've sent to every organization that completes a grant application. Since then, we've received plenty of thoughtful, candid, and incredibly helpful feedback from our nonprofit partners. We've already made improvements in some areas and are actively working on others. To share an overview of the feedback and changes, we created a [Post-Application Feedback Summary](#). As a learning organization, we are committed to listening to our stakeholders and constantly improving our practices.

---

## Grant Opportunities for Nonprofits

Our [Grant Opportunities web page](#) features available and upcoming Requests for Proposals.

We currently have opportunities for nonprofits serving the towns of Glastonbury and Granby. We will also release a RFP from our Black Giving Circle in the near future.

[Sign up to receive notification emails](#) when a new grant opportunity is announced.

---



### 100 Influencers of Greater Hartford: Andréa Hawkins

Andréa Hawkins is a consulting mentor who, in 2019, founded Leading Culture Solutions (LCS), a firm focused on helping organizations strengthen their core areas — an effort rooted in her belief in offering help wherever she can.

Hawkins is a multifaceted leader who spent more than two decades with The Amistad Center for Art & Culture, and served as a board member of the YWCA Hartford Region. Her team at LCS has supported notable Greater Hartford institutions including American School for the Deaf and the Greater Hartford Arts Council. In addition to leading her firm, Hawkins serves on Connecticut's Social Equity Council as an appointee of the Governor's Office.

She describes her success as a community effort and is driven by a

passion for giving back. “I will help anyone who needs help,” Hawkins said. “If I have time and can give it, I want to do that.”

To celebrate the Hartford Foundation's 100th Anniversary, we are sharing 100 Influencers of Greater Hartford on our social media channels throughout the rest of 2025. Follow us on social for more!



Visit our website: [hfpg.org](https://hfpg.org)  
Questions? Email [hartfordfoundation@hfpg.org](mailto:hartfordfoundation@hfpg.org).



Hartford Foundation for Public Giving | 10 Columbus Boulevard 8th Floor | Hartford, CT 06106  
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)