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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Continues to Support Hartford Public Library's Early Literacy Initiative**

**Hartford , July 18, 2016** — Hartford, CT July 18, 2016 - Hartford Public Library's Leap into Learning's receives a \$10,000 grant Phase Two funding from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation.

Since September 2015, Hartford Public Library and its Leap Into Learning—Child Care Program has worked with 24 licensed and unlicensed Home-Based Child Care Providers to increase their knowledge of child development, early childhood curriculums, and the most current brain development research to ensure they offer high-quality care to their young learners. Through a series of in-home visits, hands-on training workshops, and material resources library staff have helped build their knowledge and skills in the five key domains: social competence, emotional maturity, physical health and well-being, language and cognitive development, and communications skills and general knowledge.

As word about our program has spread, we now have a waiting list of providers who want to be included in the next cycle of training. At the same time, the providers we are currently working with express how much the parents of their charges need to be educated about the importance of learning in the early years. This is the reason for the creation of Phase Two of Leap Into Learning—Providers Teaching Parents. The goal is to educate parents about the skills their children need to be ready for kindergarten and how they can provide opportunities for their children to grow in each of the five key domains.

This second phase focuses on the parents of children our current cohort of cares for. Ten providers will work in pairs with library staff assistance to conduct "Parent Education Parties" five times in the course of one year. These providers will pass on the knowledge they have gained in Phase One of Leap Into Learning to the parents of the children they care for.

#### **ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Hartford Public Library is a national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. It also provides access to computers, job counseling and assists in exploring pathways to citizenship. It has free art events, music concerts and classes for all ages and interests. In 2015 the 10 locations of the Hartford Public Library counted 722,047 visits from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Please visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

#### **ABOUT BROWN RUDNICK LLP**

Brown Rudnick is an AmLaw 200 firm with offices in the United States and Europe. With relentless focus on the client's objectives, the Firm represents clients from around the world in high stakes litigation and business transactions. Our clients include public and private corporations, multinational Fortune 100 businesses and start-up enterprises. We also represent investors, as well as official and ad hoc creditors' committees in today's largest corporate restructurings, both domestically and abroad. The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public interest is an innovative model combining the Firm's pro bono, charitable giving and community volunteer efforts. For more information, please visit [www.brownrudnick.com](http://www.brownrudnick.com).

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## **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 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. In 2015 the ten locations of the Hartford Public Library counted 722,047 visits from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Please visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).

**Hartford Public Library/500 Main St./Hartford CT 06103**