

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Homeless Souls” to Open at Hartford Public Library with Slam Poetry Performance

Hartford, Connecticut (January 10, 2011): Hartford Public Library is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition, “Homeless Souls,” a compilation of images, poetry and prose. This exhibit is an extension of the book, “Homeless Souls” by poet Jake Anderson, published by Greater Hartford’s Antrim House in 2009. A reception will be held Sunday, January 23, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the Hartford History Center at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street. This exhibit will run through March 6, 2011.

Rennie McQuilkin, co-founder of the Hill-Stead Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, poet and Antrim House publisher, will talk about the “Homeless Souls” project, how it came to be, and about its creator, poet Jake Anderson. “Publishing Jake Anderson’s *Homeless Souls* was far more than a business proposition,” said McQuilkin. “As soon as I saw Jake’s photographs of the homeless along with their comments and drawings, I knew his book would demonstrate that the homeless are not separate from those of us with homes, but rather that ‘they are us,’ sharing the same fears and hopes as all of us at a time when security is more and more uncertain. In addition, I admired the artistry of the photographs and the humanity of Jake Anderson’s poems...”

The reception also will feature a slam poetry performance by Ernie Blue. A recognized master teacher in the art of performance poetry, Blue condenses decades of history into a single poem. “Poetry is a life-changing art, the doorway to all forms of literature,” said Blue. A retired corrections officer, Blue cites the Million Man March as having a profound effect on his work. His heritage and responsibility as an African-American male are at the center of his art.

This exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. Parking is available on the parking deck adjacent to the library on Arch Street, as well as street parking. For more information about this exhibition, please the Hartford History Center at 860-695-6347.

To arrange an interview, please contact:

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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 850,000 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 the Hartford Public Library is to promote and support literacy and learning; to provide free and open access to information and ideas and to help people participate in our democratic society.