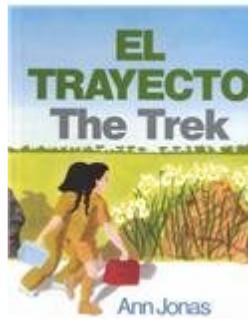




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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hartford Families Invited to Participate in 2nd Annual StoryWalk™



Two-week program promotes reading, community engagement, and outdoor activity

HARTFORD, Connecticut (March, 2015) – Hartford children, parents, families, and caregivers will join a kickoff celebration for a the city’s second “StoryWalk™” in the northeast neighborhoods on Saturday, April 11 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hartford Public Library Barbour Branch. The StoryWalk™ will be displayed from April 11 through April 25.

StoryWalks™ are fun, engaging, community projects that promote reading and outdoor physical activity for kids and families. **Activities will lead kids and families on a trip through the Northeast neighborhood and local business storefronts** where pages from El Trayecto/The Trek will be reprinted on large, weather-resistant boards and placed in participating store windows.

In 2014, over 900 children and families participated in the inaugural Hartford StoryWalks™, which took place along Park Street and at George Day Park, the United Way Reading Festival, and WinterFest.

This year, families are invited to take their own trek around the northeast neighborhood and visit businesses in search of all the pages of Ann Jonas’ book *El Trayecto/The Trek*, translated by Teresa Mlawer, which will be displayed in both English and Spanish. Families will be given a

passport with the location of each page. Each business will stamp their passport leading the families through the stories ending at their local library branch to receive a free copy of the book.

Families can participate at any time during the two-week period that the StoryWalk™ takes place. The Barbour Branch of Hartford Public Library will have maps and passports available for families wishing to start the StoryWalk™.

“We now know that children gain significant knowledge of language, reading, and writing long before they enter school,” said Hartford Public Library Chief Executive Officer Matthew Poland. “Early literacy skills developed in real life settings through positive interactions with literacy materials and other people. That’s what StoryWalk™ is all about.”

This program is made possible through the collaborative efforts of Hartford Public Library, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving/Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative, The Village for Families and Children Clark Community School, CRT Generations, Mega Education and Harper Collins Children’s Books.

StoryWalks™ are a component of an early literacy approach called *Let’s Talk... It Makes A Difference!®*. The StoryWalk™ was created by Anne Ferguson and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

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 a 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. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit hplct.org.

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