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### **Hartford Youth Paint Mural for Hartford Children**

Hartford, CT . . . Hartford youth between the ages of 14 and 18 worked this summer to create a mural for Hartford's children. The youth worked on the mural as part of their summer employment with Our Piece of the Pie® (OPP®). The mural is in the Children's Department of the Hartford Public Library.

A mural depicting traditional fables and folklore from throughout the world was unveiled by the OPP youth. It represents a culmination of six weeks of research, "client meetings," design and painting. In addition to the mural production, youth also learned about business and life skills that will help them as they progress in their careers.

"This Youth Business program blends the business world with youth's interests," says Bob Rath, OPP President/CEO. "It engages young people in a learning experience that is fun, teaches them about teamwork and coming to work every day. It's a model Our Piece of the Pie has been perfecting for 15 years."

This summer over 500 OPP youth are engaged in employment opportunities throughout the region.

Our Piece of the Pie is a youth development agency that helps youth, 14-24 years old, become successful adults. OPP programs and services allow young people to rise above economic and social barriers to reach the goals of a degree from a 2 or 4-year college or vocational certification and/or meaningful employment in their chosen field.

The Summer Youth Employment program is funded by Capital Workforce Partners, the region's workforce investment board – Developing Tomorrow's Workforce Today.



*Finished mural created by Our Piece of the Pie youth detailing fables and folklore from throughout the world.*



*OPP Youth, OPP President/CEO Bob Rath, OPP Youth Business Manager Julie Bergeron and Harford Public Library's Associate Librarian for Youth Services Debra Carrier-Perry stand in front of finished mural.*

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