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NONPROFIT NOTEBOOK

Major grants target education programs

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Lincoln Financial Foundation has awarded 17 grants totaling \$240,235, targeting educational programming in Hartford.

The largest grant of \$40,000 went to Teach for America to sustain the growth of its corps of teachers in Hartford. Teach for America works to eliminate educational inequity by recruiting outstanding recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit to two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and to become lifelong leaders in ensuring educational equity and excellence for children.

Our Piece of the Pie received a \$20,000 grant to support its afterschool and summer education and youth development programs.

A \$12,235 grant to Hartford Public Library will provide free admission for the public to Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America, a Civil War sesquicentennial exhibit. A complementary exhibit prepared by the Hartford History Center will explore the city's unique role in Lincoln's life and times, including the creation of the Hartford Wide Awakes, the first political marching organization in the nation.

Other organizations receiving education grants are:

- \$20,000 to Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, to help support three new school programs;
- \$20,000 to Hartford Youth Scholars for Steppingstone Academy Hartford;
- \$18,000 to Connecticut Science Center for the Science After School project;
- \$10,000 to Connecticut Invention Convention for its 2011-2012 academic program, which introduces inventing into Hartford schools and afterschool programs, and for the annual Lincoln Presidential Awards to student inventors;
- \$10,000 to Family Life Education for its Early Education and Family Literacy program at the Parkville Family Center;

- \$10,000 to Greater Hartford Consortium for Higher Education for Career Beginnings, which provides one-on-one advising, afterschool workshops and adult mentoring;
- \$10,000 to the Mark Twain House to support educational programs that help satisfy state curriculum standards in American literature and history,;
- \$10,000 to Village for Families & Children for its Early Childhood Learning Center;
- \$10,000 to World Affairs Council of Connecticut to fund its Model United Nations program;
- \$5,000 to Everybody Wins! Connecticut for Power Lunch, a lunchtime literacy and mentoring program;
- \$5,000 to Junior Achievement of Southwest New England;
- \$5,000 to Leadership Greater Hartford for Common Ground, a program that trains emerging high school leaders; and
- \$5,000 to Nutmeg Big Brothers — Big Sisters for its community-based, one-on-one mentoring program.

Grant from The Hartford support YWCA, museum

The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. has awarded a \$50,000 grant to YWCA Hartford Region's Soromundi Commons, a supportive housing project and emergency shelter in collaboration with the Chrysalis Center, Inc.

The unique project supports homeless and those at-risk of homelessness to help them gain residential stability, prepare for employment and reach a greater level of self-sufficiency. The nationally recognized model offers a continuum of services on-site, including case management, job counseling, health care and a community learning center.

Homelessness has become an increasingly challenging issue for Hartford. The number of people in shelters and transitional housing programs increased 3 percent from 2009 to 2010. Shelters in Connecticut have been operating over capacity for almost two full years. Roughly one in four homeless individuals in Connecticut is sheltered in Hartford.

The Hartford also provided a \$7,500 grant to The Children's Museum to fund both field trips to the museum and education outreach programming at the Boys & Girls Club of Asylum Hill.

The grant will enable 150 youth to have hands-on experiences with science and nature over a six-week program in July and August.

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Ronald McDonald Charities awards eight CT grants

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts has awarded more than \$75,000 to eight Connecticut organizations for a variety of initiatives, including materials for a summer literacy program serving at-risk youths, SMART Boards technology for inner city and special education schools, and audio-visual equipment for a city arts center.

RMHC's second quarter recipients are:

- Trinity-On-Main in New Britain — \$24,438 to purchase audio and visual equipment for the arts center;
- Grace Academy in Hartford — \$4,248 for a SMART Board and associated equipment that will help students make valuable and tangible connections to their world;
- Manchester Memorial Hospital/ECHN in Manchester — \$12,437 for three SMART Boards for the hospital's Clinical Day School, a private special education school that offers an alternative school experience for students who need a highly structured, therapeutic environment in order to achieve academic success;
- Children's Museum of Southeastern CT in Niantic — \$6,448 to purchase equipment for a new "Soundbeam" exhibit;
- YMCA of Greater Hartford □ \$8,898 for educational toys and computer software for new Wilson-Gray Center □ s Child Watch Amazing Kids Program;
- Lebanon Elementary School Parent Teacher's Association in Lebanon — \$10,000 awarded for the completion of "Bailey's Garden," a handicap accessible playground being built in honor of seven-year old Bailey Shifrin who died from a rare genetic syndrome;

- Madonna Place, Inc. in Norwich — \$7,101 for books and toys to be used by children of at-risk families receiving services and participating in the organization's Summer Literacy Program;
- Mount Saint John in Deep River — \$3,896 to fund materials for the facility's Vocational Enrichment Programs.