



URBAN LEADER

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Empowering Communities. Changing Lives

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Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

Although 2015 is in the rear view mirror, we want to thank you for another incredible year! Nothing is without its challenges; but, your support has helped the Urban League to sustain for 51 years in the greater Hartford region and serve thousands of individuals and families in the process. Whether you spent time volunteering, attended or sponsored an event, or made a financial contribution—your generosity has made a difference.



We invite you to take a journey through photos of some of the key Urban League moments of 2015. From the Urban League William “Bill” Brown memorabilia exhibit in City Hall in January, to the Holiday Toy Drive where over 600 toys were donated to needy children—we lived out our mission to empower, educate, and serve.

There is no doubt that we live in challenging social and economic times where uncertainty abounds. We have witnessed tragedy and triumph in our city and nation over the past year; but, we must remain energized and committed to the ideal that social justice and equality in every aspect of life can be more than aspirational. Please join us in recommitting to empowering communities and changing lives through greater access and more opportunities.

Make it a GREAT year!

2015 At-A-Glance



(1) Urban League hosted two signature events celebrating Black History Month. The 1st Annual “Legacy Revealed: Imprints on a Nation” Celebration showcased the achievements and contributions of minorities through an interactive exhibit and awards ceremony. Five dynamic individuals were honored for their impact in the community. **(2)** We also held a special reception for the unveiling of “50 Years of the Urban League of Greater Hartford Exhibit” featuring historical artifacts and memorabilia from the legendary Bill Brown, the first Urban League Executive Director. The exhibit was displayed in the atrium of City Hall for several days. **(3)** Our Project Ready Mentor program launched, aligning area teenagers with professionals from diverse backgrounds for guidance and support throughout the year.



(4) The theme of our 2015 Annual Meeting was “Empowered to Change” where Urban League staff showcased departmental highlights and new board members were elected. Mr. Reggie Hales, publisher of Inquiring News, was honored with the Urban League of Greater Hartford Community Service Award. **(5)** Hundreds of job seekers participated in our 15th Annual Employment and Empowerment Expo at The First Cathedral. Vendors expressed how impressed they were with the venue and quality of prospective employees the expo attracted. **(6)** Urban League Gives Back! Youth program participants, staff and Urban League Young Professionals assisted with outdoor clean up at Camp Courant for COMCAST Cares Day, a spring community service project with one of our major sponsors.



(7,8) Former Mayor Pedro Segarra was one of hundreds in attendance at our “First Day the Right Way” Back to School giveaway this summer. All roads led to 140 Woodland Street as children received free backpacks and school supplies, while local organizations shared information and resources to empower families. **(9)** Urban League was the charity of choice for the Hartford Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 Gala. Funds were allocated to the League for each word spoken during the acceptance speeches of 40 award recipients (the first three words were free).



(10) At our 51st Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner and Celebration, COMCAST donated \$20,000 to enhance Digital Literacy programming. **(11)** NBC Connecticut 21st Century Solutions awarded \$50,000 to support Project Shield, our youth anti-violence initiative. Urban League won 1st place, among a very crowded field of applicants. **(12)** Santa paid a visit to our affiliate spreading joy and cheer during our Holiday Toy Drive, assisting with the distribution of gifts to youth ages 0-17. In the spirit of giving, these young girls came to share a gift with other children who were less fortunate.

Visit us online to see more photos and stories of how we Empower Communities and Change Lives!

STAY CONNECTED



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