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For Information contact:
Tim Ludlam, Managing Director
Greater Hartford Community of Promise
860-247-0549
timtc14@yahoo.com

Beat the Odds

The Greater Hartford Community of Promise (GHCP), a program of The Work Bank, Inc., in collaboration with The Gathering Place, Inc. and the Hartford Public Schools announces the 2005 Beat the Odds Award program.

Hartford, CT (June 9, 2005) – ***Beat the Odds***: The Greater Hartford Community of Promise (GHCP), a program of The Work Bank, Inc., in collaboration with The Gathering Place, Inc. and the Hartford Public Schools announces the 2005 Beat the Odds Award program. This program was initiated in 1990 by the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) in Washington, D.C., to honor graduating students who have demonstrated academic and personal success and who have the strength and determination to do well despite the challenges and adversity they have encountered in their young lives. In 1995 The Gathering Place brought the program to Hartford and expanded it to include all of Hartford’s schools. Thus our purpose is to honor one graduating student from each public school in Hartford (elementary, middle and high) with a special award for “beating the odds” in their young lives. As CDF states “Too often we hear about teenagers getting into trouble, dropping out of school, becoming involved with drugs or gangs, or becoming parents too soon. Rarely recognized, however, are the many young people who do well despite facing such problems as poverty, violence, homelessness, family breakup, or substance abuse that stand in the way of even the smallest achievements.”

We would like to recognize these incredible students, as well as their families, friends and school officials who help support them. We honor their achievements in two ways: first, we present them with a certificate at their school’s award assembly where the student will be announced as the Beat the Odds winner in front of their class; second, an award reception will be held on June 13th, 6-8pm, at The Hartford Club for all the winners, their families, friends, school officials and community dignitaries. The Honored students receive an Award Certificate, a \$25 check, a commemorative book and graduating seniors receive a \$500 scholarship toward college or their next career endeavor.

In addition, each award winner has been provided the opportunity to become part of the Greater Hartford Community of Promise, a partner in America’s Promise, a national program started by Colin Powell in 1997. Our mission is to improve our community by establishing equal opportunity for children, promote their welfare, and secure access to available resources for their enjoyment and benefit and insure their domestic tranquility. We provide these opportunities based on five promises: 1) ongoing relationships with caring adults, 2) safe places with structured programs, 3) a healthy start, 4) marketable skills and 5) opportunities to give back to their communities. The Work Bank and the GHCP strive to meet these promises through our programs and outreach.

Beat the Odds provides an opportunity for all of us in the Greater Hartford area to encourage our children to learn and succeed. For more information or to get involved with Beat the Odds, the GHCP, The Work Bank or The Gathering Place, please contact Tim Ludlam at the GHCP, 860-247-0549 x11.