

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Hartford Recognizes Five Community Leaders**

Hartford, CT--Sept 29, 2005)-Some of the area's premiere youth performers will be onstage to honor five area leaders on Friday, September 30 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. at The Learning Corridor. The 2005 Polaris Awards, conducted by the **Hartford Symphony's "Maestro" Edward Cumming**, is presented by Leadership Greater Hartford, the area's largest community leadership organization.

Polaris, the brightest light in the sky, is known as the guiding star. The annual Polaris Awards recognizes the leaders who are helping guide Hartford and its citizens in the fields of Arts and Culture; Community and Economic Development; Education; Government and Public Policy; and Health and Human Services. The 2005 recipients in these awards are:

**John Alves**, arts supporter and gifted graphic designer

**John Wardlaw**, former Executive Director of the Hartford Housing Authority

**Norma Neumann Johnson**, Principal of the Breakthrough Magnet School

**Tom Condon**, Columnist & Editor of Place section of the *Hartford Courant*

**Sister Pat McKeon**, Executive Director of Mercy Housing & Shelter Corporation

Leadership Greater Hartford members voted to honor these individuals because they each provide a powerful light and example for others to follow, demonstrate vision, courage and innovation in undertaking important community endeavors, and produce results in ways that make a lasting and meaningful impact on the quality of life in Greater Hartford.

Congressman John Larson and Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez are honorary co-chairs of the 2005 Polaris Awards. Children from the **Hartford Conservatory**, **Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts**, **Spectrum in Motion**, and **The Hartford Children's Theatre** will honor the awardees with performances throughout the evening.

The 2005 Polaris Awards benefits the LGH Development Fund. This fund allows LGH to provide leadership training for people who would not otherwise be able to afford it, including community and non-profit representatives, retirees and high school students. A silent auction, conducted online through the organization's website and at the event, will also benefit the LGH Development Fund.

The event is open to the public. Tickets are only \$25 for dues-paying members and current LGH class participants, or \$35 for guests. For more information about the event, to register, or bid on auction items, go to Leadership Greater Hartford's website at [www.leadershipgh.org](http://www.leadershipgh.org) or contact Julie Daly at Leadership Greater Hartford at tel: (860) 951-6161, ext. 19.

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