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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **MASSMUTUAL DONATES 135 COMPUTERS TO THE HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

December 15, 2006 – The Hartford Public Schools has received 135 refurbished personal computers from MassMutual as part of the national Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) program. Some computers will be distributed to preschool classrooms, others will be distributed to parents to support parent involvement in the schools, and some will be used as classroom tools in the AOIT courses. Also, students will be able to earn the computers as a reward for academic achievement and increased attendance.

“Information technology has a rapidly increasing presence in daily life and the need for education to bridge the digital divide is more critical than ever. The Academy of Information Technology helps meet this need by preparing high school students for successful careers in information technology,” said Bernie Sheridan, Director of Information Technology at MassMutual and Chairman of the Advisory Board to the Hartford Public Schools’ AOIT program.

“The impact of the PC donation is great. Not only will our AOIT program benefit from the technology, but students will be able to apply their classroom learning by helping our technology staff prepare the computers for distribution,” said Jody Becker, director of the Hartford Public Schools School-to-Career program

“AOIT enables students to connect their classroom learning with the real world, college and careers. When this happens, school naturally becomes more relevant and engaging. At the same time, students are gaining twenty first century skills that will help them graduate and compete in the global economy,” Becker concluded.

*Growing the future of Hartford through quality education for all students!*

With over 125 academies nationwide, AOIT provides students with a rigorous academic curriculum, while exposing them to the varied career opportunities available in the information technology industry. Students engage in project-based learning, combined with hands-on work experience, to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills.

### **About The Academy of Information Technology**

The Academy of Information Technology is part of the National Academy Foundation (NAF). The NAF's network of academies was begun 25 years ago in partnership with members of the business community. Today, NAF's small school vision emphasizes academic excellence and close relationships with Academy teachers, staff, and business partners to help students relate their educational experiences to real-world careers and provide students with a bridge to the professional world. This vision has evolved into a premier reform model for public education throughout the country, and has helped inspire the contemporary small school/ small learning community movement. Today the NAF serves more than 45,000 students in more than 529 career Academies in 40 states and the District of Columbia. NAF's Academies include: Academy of Finance, Academy of Hospitality and Tourism and Academy of Information Technology.

### **About MassMutual**

MassMutual Financial Group is the fleet name for Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) and its affiliates, with more than 13 million clients and over \$395 billion in assets under management at year-end 2005.

Founded in 1851, MassMutual is a mutually owned financial protection, accumulation and income management company headquartered in Springfield, Mass. MassMutual's major affiliates include: OppenheimerFunds, Inc.; Babson Capital Management LLC; Baring Asset Management Limited; Cornerstone Real Estate Advisers LLC; MML Investors Services, Inc.; MassMutual International, LLC. and The MassMutual Trust Company, FSB. MassMutual is on the Internet at [www.massmutual.com](http://www.massmutual.com).

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