



Connecticut's talking newsstand for the blind and print-handicapped.

HFPG Awards CRIS \$48.6K Grant

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG) recently awarded a \$48,600 grant to Connecticut Radio Information System (CRIS Radio). The award – a Transitional Operating Support Grant – is given in special circumstances to select, well-run nonprofits that provide services to vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.

This has been a year of significant expansion for CRIS, thanks to the ongoing support of its donors and volunteers. The launch of new programming for children and the development of Spanish programs is an exciting addition of the CRIS service. CRIS also is introducing on-demand subscriptions and will produce audio recordings for other organizations.

HFPG awarded the grant to CRIS Radio, the only radio-reading service in Connecticut, because it offers a unique service to people who are blind or disabled.

DONOR APPRECIATION

Donor support is essential to the daily operation of CRIS, and to show our appreciation, donors making a gift of \$75 or more during the upcoming annual appeal will receive a free CRIS embroidered pocket polo shirt.

The shirt, manufactured by Hanes, is a 50/50 blend of pre-shrunk cotton and polyester



featuring two pearlized buttons, a welt collar and ribbed cuffs with double-needle stitched bottom hem are featured on the shirt.

KIDS ON-DEMAND LAUNCHED

Business, education and non-profit leaders recently joined CRIS donors and volunteers to officially kick-off the launch of children's programming.

Thanks to a wide-range of community support, CRIS has become the first in the nation to offer extensive, on-demand audio versions of children's magazines for children with disabilities. An estimated 72,000 children in Connecticut receive special education services.

Michelle Ward, a junior at North Haven High School and member of the Student Advisory Council for the state Board of Education and Services for the Blind, attended the launch and demonstrated how to download audio files onto an MP3 player from CRIS Radio's Web site, www.crisradio.org. The programs also can be downloaded onto a personal computer, smartphone or iPad/tablet.

Access to Kids On-Demand requires a modest subscription fee of \$5 per month or \$30 annually. The subscription provides unlimited downloads of both children's and adult programming.

In addition, a subscription rate of \$250 is available to schools and afterschool organizations.



Photo / Roger Maynard/A Closer

At the launch of Kids On-Demand, from left, are: Eileen Hassan, president of The Computer Company; Janice Gruendel, deputy commissioner of the Department of Children and Families; and Philip Apruzzese, president of the Connecticut Education Association.



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Michele Ward, a junior at North Haven High School, demonstrates how to download CRIS Kids On-Demand programs onto an MP3 player.

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In The Dark
April 21, 2012
The Hartford Club**