



## **Peter Atherton of Newington receives R.C. Knox Distinguished Leadership Award at the YMCA of Greater Hartford Annual Meeting**

Peter Atherton of Newington received the 2016 Robert C. Knox, Jr. YMCA Distinguished Leadership Award at the YMCA of Greater Hartford's 164<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The award honors the memory of the late Robert C. Knox, Jr., a Hartford insurance executive whose dedication helped the YMCA grow, prosper and fulfill its mission to serve others. The award is the YMCA of Greater Hartford's highest honor recognizing volunteers.

The award was presented by Joe Weist, the YMCA of Greater Hartford's vice president of finance and CFO. "Peter is a man of both faith and deeds through which he has truly made a lasting impact on our community and on the lives of so many of people. He has brought both his keen fiscal insight and his commitment to impacting the lives of those we serve to help guide the YMCA," said Weist.

"I have always been led by my belief that people should share their blessings with others who may be less fortunate. This concept of 'giving back' to one's community has been a common theme throughout my career and was always stressed by the people I worked for," said Atherton in his remarks.

Atherton began fundraising for the YMCA's Downtown branch in 1989 to support its programs, and has since served in multiple leadership roles, including chair of both the branch Finance Committee and the Board of Advisors, a position to which he has returned to this year. He is also an active member of the Association Board of Directors



including previously serving as Secretary and currently as the Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee.

In addition to his service to the YMCA, Atherton has been recognized as an outstanding Lay Leader by the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury for his work, which includes many trips to the Lakota Sioux Indian reservation in South Dakota to provide supplies and assist with housing project for its residents. He has also worked with Habitat for Humanity on housing projects and hurricane relief efforts both in Connecticut and other states.

More than thirty friends and members of The Congregational Church in South Glastonbury attended the annual meeting to recognize Atherton's achievement.



**PHOTO CAPTION:** Pictured at the YMCA of Greater Hartford's annual meeting are (from left to right) Maura Cochran, chairman of the board of directors, R.C. Knox Award recipient Peter Atherton, Joe Weist, vice president of finance and CFO, and Harold Sparrow, president and CEO.

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The YMCA of Greater Hartford is a non- profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization established in 1852 and is one of the nation's oldest YMCA's. The YMCA of Greater Hartford builds strong communities by helping individuals reach their fullest potential through transformative programs that promote Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. We help people reach their fullest potential by: putting a caring adult in the presence of every child; being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us; and working in partnership to eliminate the disparities in health and education. In 2016 the YMCA of Greater Hartford served more than 120,000 people, including 66,000 children, in 52 towns and cities throughout the Hartford, Litchfield, Tolland and Windham counties. YMCA programs put the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility into practice to build healthy spirit, mind and body for all participants. [Ghymca.org](http://Ghymca.org)

