

Arbor Day Celebration by The Hartford

On Friday the 24th, more than 50 volunteers from The Hartford along with 24 Trinity Day School students and 5 adults spent the chilly morning digging holes along Sargeant St and Atwood St and putting new trees into the neighborhood. It's become an annual tradition for The Hartford and various other groups and individuals have joined in each year. With the helpful expertise of Knox Inc, 60 trees were planted, many on the private property of homeowners on these streets. They are of course required to water and maintain the trees, and as Ron Pitz, executive Director of Knox Inc puts it, "if you helped dig the hole and wrestle that tree into place, you're motivated to make sure it thrives."

The event included a Proclamation by the Mayor and several speeches before the digging began, and it all ended around noon with a lunch complete with a steel band.



Trees add so much to the health of a neighborhood, everything from shade and wind protection to cleaning the air and reducing CO2 in the atmosphere. Coming together to plant them adds a lot as well to the social health of neighborhood.

If you're still thinking about how these homeowners managed to get free trees on their property then you need to talk to Nicola Allen, Community Outreach Manager at Knox. It's her job to find good places for all of these trees, and she's really good at what she does. She just needs a little help to get the word out. Knox's motto is "the right tree in the right place." And Nicola is the one who understands that. While commercial nurseries often have a success rate of about half, Knox succeeds 97% of the time. Selection and placement is the first part, education and engagement is the second part. You get the beautiful blossoms in the spring and the shade in the summer, we all get to breathe the extra oxygen. There are even fruit trees that have been donated by CT DEEP that will be planted around the City. Knox has many different Grants each with different conditions but all of them with one goal, to increase the tree population in Hartford. If you own property in Hartford, or if you know of someone who does or a good spot for a tree, you can help by calling Nicola Allen at (860) 951-7694 or emailing at nicolaa@knoxparks.org

For more photos of the event go to:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/117499619673139668693/albums/6141424541259247665?authkey=CNyIlpSdzZef3gE>