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For immediate release:  
January 4, 2010

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## **Main Street Center Awards Preservation of Place Grants to Seven Connecticut Communities**

(Hartford, CT) – Connecticut Main Street Center (CMSC) announced today that seven nonprofit Main Street organizations and municipalities have been awarded a total of \$60,000 in 2011 Preservation of Place grants. The Preservation of Place grant program provides Connecticut Main Street communities with targeted resources to increase their capacity to plan for preservation and revitalization initiatives in their downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. The program provides a source of funding for new initiatives that can be integrated into and leverage more comprehensive Main Street preservation and revitalization programs.

Since this grant program began in 2007 \$160,000 has been awarded to 12 Connecticut communities, leveraging over \$479,000 in Main Street initiatives. CMSC's Preservation of Place grant program receives support from the Commission on Culture and Tourism with funds from the State of Connecticut, through the Community Investment Act.

### **Funded by Community Investment Act**

“Historic Preservation, which includes the revitalization of our Main Streets, creates jobs, brings vacant buildings back on the tax rolls and adds value and vitality to adjacent buildings and neighborhoods. Investing in our Main Streets is responsible growth at its best,” said John Simone, President & CEO of CMSC. “The Community Investment Act (CIA) supports the infrastructure of Place – pristine open space, vibrant historic town centers, working farms and housing choices for everyone. Our infrastructure of Place is at the intersection of sustainable economic development and quality of life.”

2011 Preservation of Place Grant recipients include the **Hartford Business Improvement District** for the High Street Historic District Lighting Project; the **Middletown Downtown Business District** for an organizational & funding strategic plan; the **Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Collaborative** for the NW CT Village Center Signage & Wayfinding Design Project; the **Town of Putnam** for a downtown Walkability Audit & Streetscape Implementation plan; the **Rockville Downtown Association** for a plan for Rediscovery & Lighting of the Historic Fromson Overlook at Hockanum Falls; **Simsbury Main Street Partnership** for creation of Design Guidelines for the Town Center; and the **City of West Haven** for a Strategic Plan for the West Haven Cultural Arts Center.

### **Connecticut Main Street Center**

The mission of Connecticut Main Street Center is to be the champion and leading resource for vibrant and sustainable Main Streets as foundations for healthy communities. CMSC is dedicated to community and economic development within the context of historic preservation and is committed to bringing Connecticut's commercial districts back to life socially and economically.

CMSC currently serves 27 member communities, three regional organizations and seven Designated Main Street Management Programs. Since the Connecticut Main Street program began in 1995, Designated Main Street programs have generated over \$880 million in public and private reinvestment in their downtowns. Over the same time, 412 net new businesses have opened and 2,324 net new jobs have been created. For every \$1 spent on a local Main Street program, \$73.27 has been reinvested in CT Main Street designated downtowns, making the Main Street initiative one of the most successful economic development programs in the country.

CT Main Street Center is supported by Founding Sponsors, the State of Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development and The Connecticut Light and Power Company, and by Growth Sponsors The United Illuminating Company and the State of Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. For more information, visit [www.ctmainstreet.org](http://www.ctmainstreet.org).

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