



News Release

NU Foundation awards \$50,000 grant to the Westport Country Playhouse Illuminates outdoor garden for patron enjoyment

BERLIN, Connecticut, July 18, 2005 – The Northeast Utilities Foundation today announced a \$50,000 grant to the Westport Country Playhouse to fund the illumination of the Playhouse’s signature garden for the enjoyment of theater patrons attending performances.

Theresa Hopkins-Staten, president and chairman of the board of the Northeast Utilities Foundation, today presented the first \$25,000 installment of the two-year grant to Alison Harris, executive director of the Playhouse, and John Vaccaro, president of its Board of Directors.

“With the help of the NU Foundation’s generous grant, the Playhouse lights will shine year-round—a cultural beacon for everyone in our community,” said Elisabeth Saxe, development director for the Playhouse.

“The NU Foundation is honored to contribute to the renewal of this landmark institution while helping Playhouse patrons further enjoy their theater experience,” said Hopkins-Staten.

In June the Westport Country Playhouse celebrated its 75th anniversary with its reopening following an extensive \$17.8 million renovation and expansion. The renovation of the historic regional theater, which opened in 1931, provides modern facilities for audiences and artists, including a two-story lobby with grand staircase, a modern scene shop, new dressing rooms, and barrier-free access throughout the theater. The renovation also allows for the Playhouse’s operation as a year-round venue for theater productions, concerts, family events, film screenings and play readings.

For more information about the Westport Country Playhouse and their performing arts schedule, please visit their Web site at www.westportplayhouse.org.

The Northeast Utilities Foundation was established in 1998 to support community initiatives in education, the environment, the arts, and health and human services. *The Northeast Utilities System companies provide funding to the Northeast Utilities Foundation to help them support their community goals.* For additional information, please visit www.nu.com/aboutNU/foundation.asp