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## **Our Piece of the Pie Celebrates College Youth At 1<sup>st</sup> Annual College Reunion/Annual Meeting**

**Hartford, CT.**—More than 125 Hartford youth, staff and supporters celebrated the success of Our Piece of the Pie's® college youth during the agency's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual College Reunion/Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at Hartford Hospital's Education/Research Center.

The evening was highlighted by a speech by Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez, and music and poems performed by OPP college youth.

“OPP has become the primary youth development organization in the city,” said Mayor Perez. “Tonight the young people are the stars.”

Currently 330 OPP youth are attending college or are enrolled in a vocational program. In 2008, 94 OPP youth graduated from a 2 or 4 year college or university or received a vocational certificate.

“Our youth know there are barriers in front of them,” said Bob Rath OPP President and CEO. “But with OPP staff, they know they can overcome them and be successful.”

“At OPP our mission is to help Hartford youth become successful adults,” said OPP Board of Directors Chair John Sundean. “Tonight we are surrounded by great examples of people who are at various stages of that transition.”

Teresa Frausto, who is enrolled at the University of Connecticut after two years at Capital Community College, earned an internship at Travelers through her relationship with OPP.

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“I’ve had three great mentors who help me get to where I am today,” Frausto said. “Thank you to OPP for all of their support.”

Our Piece of the Pie, a leading youth development agency, provides education and employment services to Hartford youth with the long term goal of a college degree or vocational certification; and or full-time employment for each youth.



*Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez draws a raffle ticket with emcees Latoya Braham and Desiree Milner-McKay.*



*OPP participant Munique Reid with OPP supporter Peter Kelly*



*OPP participant Dazmon Harris performs*



*OPP participants Tremaine Williams and Ashley Smith sing an Alicea Keys song*