Opening a Home for Hartland

After almost 10 years providing English classes to immigrants in a small living room, and after-school programs to more than three dozen kids packed into an 800-square-foot apartment, University Neighborhood Partners (UNP) in April marked the opening of its new Hartland Partnership Center.

Thanks to a generous lead gift of $300,000 from Goldman Sachs, and supporting gifts of $100,000 each from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation and Zions Bank, Hartland and its partners now have a permanent place to offer programs on health education, financial literacy, citizenship, occupational therapy, and after school programs to Salt Lake City’s west side communities. This fulfills the partnership’s goal to bring together the richness and cultural diversity of west side neighborhoods with the academic program goals of the University of Utah.

The Center first opened in 2004 in an apartment in what was then known as the Hartland Apartments. In 2008, a youth center opened in a second unit. Together, these two small apartments made up the original Hartland Partnership Center, hosting more than 700 participants each year.

By 2010, when a larger space was needed, an opportunity to purchase a nearby 10,000-square-foot building seemed a possible solution. After many conversations, research, and a feasibility study, UNP launched its capital campaign to purchase and renovate the building. The response from the community, university, and community partners was overwhelming.

“This is not a center that provides services,” says Abdulkhalilq Mohamed, Hartland Partnership Center manager and a former Hartland program participant. “It provides education. I am who I am because of Hartland.”

The Hartland Partnership Center is a program of UNP, which is under the Office of the President of the University of Utah.
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Abdulkhaliq Mohamed, Hartland Partnership Center manager and a former Hartland program participant.

Founding UNP Director Irene Fisher and Hartland Resident Committee Member Juan Gilberto Rejón Magaña.