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TOWN OF NEWTOWN FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

SENT ON BEHALF OF THE NEWTOWN FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

Town of Newtown to Receive \$15 Million Multi-Year Grant from GE to Develop Community Center

- \$10 million for development and construction, \$5 million for operation and programming
- Community center to serve as the anchor location for all residents to come together and share experiences

Newtown, CT – November 18, 2013 – The Town of Newtown announced today that it will receive a \$15 million multi-year grant from GE for the development, construction and operation of a community center. Although the town offers strong recreational programs for its children, it became increasingly clear during the recovery from last year's tragedy that it lacks a central meeting space for the whole community.

The community center will be funded by GE, which is headquartered in nearby Fairfield, CT. GE has more than 150 employees living in Newtown. Of the \$15 million, \$10 million will be committed to the development and construction of a center that will have programming that is designed to meet community needs. The remaining \$5 million will be dedicated to operating costs for the center over five years, including the hiring of experienced professional staff. The center will be owned and operated by the town of Newtown.

"On behalf of Newtown, I am honored to accept GE's very generous donation that will help us develop a Community Center, connecting people of all ages," said Newtown First Selectman Pat Llodra. "We envision a Community Center as a place to foster inclusive community participation through recreation, the arts, community outreach services and resiliency programs. This is a donation that will add value to the entire community for years to come."

Jeff Immelt, Chairman and CEO of GE said, "GE has been part of the Newtown community for many years and we are committed to supporting our friends, family and neighbors as they continue to heal. Over the last year, our GE colleagues from Newtown identified several ideas to help the town and identified that a community center was one of the town's greatest needs. We are proud to help them achieve that goal."

The community center is in the preliminary stages of development. The goal of the project is to offer additional space and programs that will make a positive impact on the community of Newtown. As planning proceeds, community input will be sought and incorporated. First Selectman Llodra and members of the Board of Newtown will continue to work with residents on site selection and development of the center.

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