

Dream Homes Community Center

To: Mayor Mark Boughton and the Common Council

From: Nikki Singer, Homeless/Housing Advocate

Re: January 2011 Monthly Report

cc: ARC Executive Director, ARC Board of Directors, and
DHCC Consultant/Jean Bowen

I. Program Synopsis

Per the proposal endorsed by Mayor Boughton and the Common Council, Dream Homes Community Center (DHCC) was established at ARC to serve as the Point of Entry for people who are homeless or low-income renters and to facilitate first time home ownership for people with hard to serve backgrounds.

II. Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program

In 2009 ARC secured a grant which is bringing **\$205,632 to the Danbury area**, over 3 years, through the stimulus program called “Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing” (**HPRP**): to help end and prevent homelessness for the people of Danbury by providing financial assistance through *security deposits, rental assistance, motel vouchers, and moving or storage costs*.

Since October 2009, we have provided a total of **\$18,757** in grants to end homelessness for **10 individuals** and **6 families** and **\$47,792** in grants to prevent homelessness for **21 individuals** and **24 families**.

In January 2011, we provided **\$3,995** in HPRP grants to 5 families. Some of the financial highlights of the HPRP grants that were awarded this month:

Re-Housing:

- **\$950** Security Deposit – A young couple with a 2 year old daughter. The mother and daughter were staying at a friend’s apartment while the father was sleeping in his car. The grant secured a one-bedroom apartment with utilities included and re-united the family.
- **\$350** Rent Subsidy – to help a family who had moved out of a domestic violence shelter continue to maintain their rent while the mother finishes a nursing degree.

Homelessness Prevention:

- **\$1,495** toward a Security Deposit -- for a single mother with three daughters, fleeing physical and emotional abuse
- **\$1,100** Security Deposit – a single mother of 3, who lost their apartment while waiting for the mother to be approved for Social Security Disability due to a stroke. The family was staying with friends in a public housing property, putting both families at risk. This grant secured a two-bedroom apartment where the family can become self-sufficient.
- **\$1,000** Security Deposit – for a single mother of two young children, who had lost their apartment due to the mother taking medical leave during her pregnancy. The grant secured a two-bedroom apartment that the mother can afford now that she is back at work.

III. Point of Entry

From July 1, 2010 until January 24, 2011, DHCC has provided services to **399 people** (283 people in families with children and 116 adults without children) through the Point of Entry at ARC.

One highlight involves a person I will nickname “Gerry”

Gerry had been homeless in Danbury for nearly two years. He had come to Connecticut with his brother in search of work. He secured a job at a local grocery store, and worked regularly, but was not earning enough to cover housing expenses. In November 2010, the City Shelter Coordinator referred Gerry to DHCC to apply for the Vet House, a transitional housing program for homeless veterans.

Gerry met with the Homeless/Housing Advocate to discuss his options for housing. He had lost his job over the summer, and was diagnosed with schizophrenia around the same time. He was not taking his medication and hadn't been to his therapist since July. The Homeless/Housing Advocate completed Gerry's application, and explained that as part of the process for admittance he would need to reconnect with his therapist and agree to stay on his medication. Gerry agreed to give it another chance, and would let the Homeless/Housing Advocate know when he had his first appointment.

A few weeks later, Gerry stopped into DHCC with the contact information for his therapist and to sign a release for the Vet House program to contact his therapist. He had a new prescription for his medication and was on his way that day to have it filled.

The Homeless/Housing Advocate contacted Gerry's therapist after Gerry's second visit. Gerry had started taking his medication, and was engaged in the sessions. There was no history of any violence, or indication that Gerry would have difficulty living with others. The Homeless/Housing Advocate contacted the Vet House the same day to get Gerry's application processed.

Within another week, Gerry was able to meet with the Project Coordinator. The Homeless/Housing Advocate had recommended Gerry for the Transitional Housing Program, and that a focus of his treatment be job training as well as managing his mental health. It was also identified that Gerry would be assisted in applying for Social Security Disability.

By the end of December 2010, Gerry was approved to move into the Vet House. He will be able to stay there for two years and recent supportive services to develop more independent living skills. After two years of living at the shelter, he is one step closer to having a permanent home.

IV. HMIS Report

Dream Homes Community Center: **01/01/2011 – 01/24/2011**

2. Persons Served during the operating year.	Number of Singles Not in Families	Number of Adults in Families	Number of Children in Families	Number of Families
a. Number on the first day of the operating year.	18	10	18	9
b. Number entering program during the operating year.	8	3	3	2
c. Number who left the program during the operating year.	10	3	7	3
d. Number in the program on the last day of the operating year. (a+b-c=d)	16	10	14	8

3. Project Capacity.	Number of Singles Not in Families	Number of Adults in Families	Number of Children in Families	Number of Families
a. Number on last day (from 2d, columns 1 and 4)	16			8
4. Non-homeless persons. (Sec. 8 SRO projects only)				
How many income-eligible non-homeless persons were housed by the SRO program during the operating year?				38
5. Age and Gender. Of those who entered during the operating year, how many people are in the following age and gender categories?				
	Age	Male	Female	Other/Not given
Single Persons (from 2b, column 1)	a. 62 and over	2	0	0
	b. 51 - 61	3	0	0
	c. 31 - 50	0	3	0
	d. 18 - 30	0	0	0
	e. 17 and under	0	0	0
	Not given	0	0	0
Persons in Families (from 2b, columns 2 & 3)	f. 62 and over	0	0	0
	g. 51 - 61	0	0	0
	h. 31 - 50	0	2	0
	i. 18 - 30	0	1	0
	j. 13 - 17	0	1	0
	k. 6 - 12	1	0	0
	l. 1 - 5	0	1	0
	m. Under 1	0	0	0
	Not given	0	0	0
6 - 10. Participants who entered during the operating year.				
6a. Veterans Status.				
A veteran is anyone who has ever been on active military duty status.				3
6b. Chronically Homeless.				
How many participants were chronically homeless individuals?				3
7. Ethnicity.				
a. Hispanic or Latino				2
b. Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino				9
8. Race.				
a. American Indian or Alaskan Native				0
b. Asian				0
c. Black or African American				0
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander				0
e. White				9
f. American Indian/Alaskan Native & White				0
g. Asian & White				0
h. Black/African American & White				0

i. American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African American			0	
j. Other Multi-Racial			0	
k. Other/Unknown (all that do not match)			2	
9a. Special Needs.				
			All	Chronic
a. Mental illness			2	2
b. Alcohol abuse			0	0
c. Drug abuse			0	0
d. HIV/AIDS or related diseases			0	0
e. Developmental disability			0	0
f. Physical disability			3	1
g. Domestic violence			2	1
h. Other (please specify)			0	0
9b. Disabled.				
How many of the participants are disabled?				4
10. Prior Living Situation. Participants slept in the following places the week prior to entering.				
			All	Chronic
a. Non-housing (street, park, car, bus station, etc.)			0	0
b. Emergency shelter			3	2
c. Transitional housing for homeless persons			0	
d. Psychiatric facility			0	
e. Substance abuse treatment facility			0	
f. Hospital			0	
g. Jail/prison			0	
h. Domestic violence situation			0	
i. Living with relatives/friends			5	
j. Rental housing			0	
k. Other (please specify)			3	
11. Amount and Source of Monthly Income at Entry and Exit. Participants who left during the operating year.				
Amount	A. Monthly Income at Entry		B. Monthly Income at Exit	
	All	Chronic	All	Chronic
a. No Income	2	0	2	0
b. \$1-150	0	0	0	0
c. \$151 - \$250	3	2	3	2
d. \$251 - \$500	1	0	1	0
e. \$501 - \$1000	2	2	2	2
f. \$1001 - \$1500	3	1	3	1
g. \$1501 - \$2000	0	0	0	0
h. \$2000 +	2	0	2	0
Source	C. Income Sources at Entry		D. Income Sources at Exit	

	All	Chronic	All	Chronic
a. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	2	2	2	2
b. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	0	0	0	0
c. Social Security	0	0	0	0
d. General Public Assistance	0	0	0	0
e. Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	0	0	0	0
f. State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)	0	0	0	0
g. Veterans benefits	0	0	0	0
h. Employment Income	5	1	5	1
i. Unemployment Benefits	0	0	0	0
j. Veteran's Health Care	0	0	0	0
k. Medicaid	0	0	1	0
l. Food Stamps	6	4	7	4
m. Other (please specify)	3	0	3	0
n. No financial resources	5	2	5	2
12a. Length of Stay in Program. Participants who left during the operating year.				
	All	Chronic		
a. Less than 1 month	6	2		
b. 1 to 2 months	7	3		
c. 3 - 6 months	0	0		
d. 7 months - 12 months	0	0		
e. 13 months - 24 months	0	0		
f. 25 months - 3 years	0	0		
g. 4 years - 5 years	0	0		
h. 6 years - 7 years	0	0		
i. 8 years - 10 years	0	0		
j. over 10 years	0	0		
12b. Length of Stay in Program. Participants who did not leave during the operating year.				
	All	Chronic		
a. Less than 1 month	7	1		
b. 1 to 2 months	4	1		
c. 3 - 6 months	7	1		
d. 7 months - 12 months	8	3		
e. 13 months - 24 months	0	0		
f. 25 months - 3 years	0	0		
g. 4 years - 5 years	0	0		
h. 6 years - 7 years	0	0		
i. 8 years - 10 years	0	0		
j. over 10 years	0	0		
13. Reasons for Leaving. Participants who left during the operating year.				
	All	Chronic		
a. Left for a housing opportunity before completing program	0	0		
b. Completed program	13	5		

c. Non-payment of rent/occupancy charge	0	0
d. Non-compliance with project	0	0
e. Criminal activity / destruction of property / violence	0	0
f. Reached maximum time allowed in project	0	0
g. Needs could not be met by project	0	0
h. Disagreement with rules/persons	0	0
i. Death	0	0
j. Other (please specify)	0	0
k. Unknown/disappeared	0	0

14. Destination. Participants who left during the operating year.

		All	Chronic
PERMANENT (a - h)	a. Rental house or apartment (no subsidy)	0	0
	b. Public Housing	0	0
	c. Section 8	0	0
	d. Shelter Plus Care	0	0
	e. HOME subsidized house or apartment	0	0
	f. Other subsidized house or apartment	0	0
	g. Homeownership	0	0
	h. Moved in with family or friends	0	0
TRANSITIONAL (i - j)	i. Transitional housing for homeless persons	1	1
	j. Moved in with family or friends	0	0
INSTITUTION (k - m)	k. Psychiatric hospital	0	0
	l. Inpatient alcohol/drug treatment facility	0	0
	m. Jail/prison	0	0
EMERGENCY SHELTER (n)	n. Emergency shelter	0	0
OTHER (o - q)	o. Other supportive housing	0	0
	p. Places not meant for human habitation (e.g. street)	0	0
	q. Other (please specify)	12	4
UNKNOWN	r. Unknown	0	0

15. Supportive Services. Participants who left during the operating year.

NOTE: The below services were given to participants who left during the operating year. Add the following counts into the appropriate category for question 15.

	Service	Service Code	All	Chronic
1.	Housing Counseling	BH-3700	8	2
2.	Housing Search Assistance	BH-3900.3100	1	0
3.	Veteran Homes	BH-8400.9000	1	1