

# Dream Homes Community Center

**To:** Mayor Mark Boughton and the Common Council

**From:** Nikki Singer, Homeless/Housing Advocate

**Re:** February 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 **\$19,107** in grants to end homelessness for **10 individuals** and **6 families** and **\$50,220** in grants to prevent homelessness for **22 individuals** and **25 families**.

In January 2011, we provided **\$2,775** in HPRP grants to 3 families and one individual. Some of the financial highlights of the HPRP grants that were awarded this month:

### **Re-Housing:**

- **\$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:**

- **\$1,200** Security Deposit -- for a single mother with a young son with special needs, whose previous apartment did not pass an inspection for safety violations and needed assistance securing safe and sanitary housing.
- **\$775** Security Deposit – a veteran with physical and mental health problems, who was being evicted from his apartment and needed to secure new housing to prevent homelessness.
- **\$450** Rent Subsidy – a couple with one son, the father was diagnosed with brain cancer and can no longer work, to retain current housing while he is undergoing treatment.

## **III. Point of Entry**

From July 1, 2010 until February 22, 2011, DHCC has provided services to **394 people** (272 people in families with children and 122 adults without children) through the Point of Entry at ARC.

One highlight involves a person I will nickname “Amanda”

Amanda was referred to ARC in February 2010 by the Women’s Center of Greater Danbury. She and her 2 daughters were staying at the Women’s Center shelter and were in need of permanent housing. Amanda was working at a retail store and receiving child support, with a total monthly income of about \$1,500.

Amanda met with ARC’s Homeless/Housing Advocate to determine housing options would be available to her and what services she would be eligible for. Based on her income, the Homeless/Housing Advocate created a housing budget with Amanda and identified a rental amount of \$700 as affordable. Amanda was eligible for a Security Deposit Guarantee from the CT Department of Social Services, and she completed her application through ARC. In addition, the Homeless/Housing Advocate had Amanda apply for the Homelessness Prevention and Re-Housing Program for help paying the first month’s rent.

Through the Women's Center Amanda found a two-bedroom apartment for \$700 per month, plus utilities. The landlord accepted the Security Deposit Guarantee, and ARC provided a portion of the first month's rent. ARC also provided Amanda with twin bunk beds for her daughters, sheets, kitchenware, and an ARC Angel Welcome Basket filled with cleaning and personal care items.

Over the next months, the Homeless/Housing Advocate provided monthly follow up to ensure Amanda would be able to retain her housing. ARC connected Amanda to an energy assistance program to help cover her heating costs and to enroll in a budget program with her electric provider. Things were going well, and she enrolled in a 10 month program to finish her nursing degree. Just as she started the program, her ex-husband stopped paying child support. Without this, her monthly income dropped to \$700/month. She tried to pay her rent each month, but was starting to slip behind.

In the fall, she told the Homeless/Housing Advocate that she was a total of two months behind in her rent. Her landlord was threatening to evict the family if she could not become, and stay, current with her rent. They contacted the Department of Child Support Enforcement, but since her ex-husband was no longer working, she would not get any child support. She was not eligible for cash assistance from the Department of Social Services because she was working, albeit part time.

Rather than drop out of the nursing program to get a second job, Amanda was able to apply for additional assistance through the Homelessness Prevention and Re-Housing Program. The Homeless/Housing Advocate spoke with Amanda's landlord, and together they created a solution to Amanda's rent: Amanda would receive \$350/month from ARC toward her rent until she completed her nursing program and could work more hours. These payments would start in December 2010. Amanda would pay \$100/week toward the rent (\$350 plus \$50 toward her balance per month), until she received her income tax return and could pay off the balance. Once her balance was resolved, she would be able to make 2 partial payments rather than having to pay all at once.

The payment plan stopped the landlord from evicting the family and is giving Amanda a chance to increase her chances of securing a higher paying job. She is also teaching her daughters to work toward a goal, even if it is hard, because there will be a positive pay out.

#### **IV. HMIS Report**

Dream Homes Community Center: **02/01/11 – 02/22/11**

<b>Entry/Exit Report</b>	
<b>Report Options:</b>	
Provider	Dream Homes Community Center (#330)

This provider AND its children.  This provider ONLY.

Entry/Exit Type

Operating Year Date Range  to  (mm/dd/yyyy)

Legal Adult Age  (as defined by foster care law in your state)

Or

**\* The numbers generated by this HUD report may not be valid for Federal funding purposes unless the report is run by an Agency Administrator or Executive Director.**

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.	19	14	16	10
b. Number entering program during the operating year.	2	4	6	3
c. Number who left the program during the operating year.	4	0	0	0
d. Number in the program on the last day of the operating year. (a+b-c=d)	17	18	22	13
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)	17			13
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?				42
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	0	0	0
	b. 51 - 61	0	0	0
	c. 31 - 50	1	0	0
	d. 18 - 30	0	1	0
	e. 17 and	0	0	0

	under			
	<b>Not given</b>	0	0	0
<b>Persons in Families (from 2b, columns 2 &amp; 3)</b>	<b>f. 62 and over</b>	0	0	0
	<b>g. 51 - 61</b>	0	0	0
	<b>h. 31 - 50</b>	1	3	0
	<b>i. 18 - 30</b>	0	0	0
	<b>j. 13 - 17</b>	0	0	0
	<b>k. 6 - 12</b>	2	4	0
	<b>l. 1 - 5</b>	0	0	0
	<b>m. Under 1</b>	0	0	0
	<b>Not given</b>	0	0	0
<b>6 - 10. Participants who entered during the operating year.</b>				
<b>6a. Veterans Status.</b>				
A veteran is anyone who has ever been on active military duty status.				1
<b>6b. Chronically Homeless.</b>				
How many participants were chronically homeless individuals?				0
<b>7. Ethnicity.</b>				
<b>a. Hispanic or Latino</b>				0
<b>b. Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino</b>				6
<b>8. Race.</b>				
<b>a. American Indian or Alaskan Native</b>				0
<b>b. Asian</b>				0
<b>c. Black or African American</b>				2
<b>d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>				0
<b>e. White</b>				2
<b>f. American Indian/Alaskan Native &amp; White</b>				0
<b>g. Asian &amp; White</b>				0
<b>h. Black/African American &amp; White</b>				2
<b>i. American Indian/Alaskan Native &amp; Black/African American</b>				0
<b>j. Other Multi-Racial</b>				0
<b>k. Other/Unknown (all that do not match)</b>				0
<b>9a. Special Needs.</b>				
		<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>	
<b>a. Mental illness</b>		1	0	
<b>b. Alcohol abuse</b>		0	0	
<b>c. Drug abuse</b>		0	0	
<b>d. HIV/AIDS or related diseases</b>		0	0	
<b>e. Developmental disability</b>		0	0	
<b>f. Physical disability</b>		1	0	
<b>g. Domestic violence</b>		0	0	
<b>h. Other (please specify)</b>		0	0	
<b>9b. Disabled.</b>				

How many of the participants are disabled?		1		
<b>10. Prior Living Situation. Participants slept in the following places the week prior to entering.</b>				
	<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>		
a. Non-housing (street, park, car, bus station, etc.)	0	0		
b. Emergency shelter	2	0		
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	1			
j. Rental housing	0			
k. Other (please specify)	3			
<b>11. Amount and Source of Monthly Income at Entry and Exit. Participants who left during the operating year.</b>				
<b>Amount</b>	<b>A. Monthly Income at Entry</b>		<b>B. Monthly Income at Exit</b>	
	<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>
a. No Income	0	0	0	0
b. \$1-150	0	0	0	0
c. \$151 - \$250	0	0	0	0
d. \$251 - \$500	0	0	0	0
e. \$501 - \$1000	2	1	2	1
f. \$1001 - \$1500	1	0	1	0
g. \$1501 - \$2000	0	0	0	0
h. \$2000 +	0	0	0	0
<b>Source</b>	<b>C. Income Sources at Entry</b>		<b>D. Income Sources at Exit</b>	
	<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>
a. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	0	0	0	0
b. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	2	1	2	1
c. Social Security	0	0	0	0
d. General Public Assistance	0	0	0	0
e. Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	1	0	1	0
f. State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)	0	0	0	0
g. Veterans benefits	0	0	0	0
h. Employment Income	1	0	1	0
i. Unemployment Benefits	0	0	0	0
j. Veteran's Health Care	0	0	0	0
k. Medicaid	1	0	1	0
l. Food Stamps	2	1	2	1

m. Other (please specify)	1	1	1	1
n. No financial resources	0	0	0	0
<b>12a. Length of Stay in Program. Participants who left during the operating year.</b>				
		<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>	
a. Less than 1 month		1	0	
b. 1 to 2 months		0	0	
c. 3 - 6 months		3	1	
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	
<b>12b. Length of Stay in Program. Participants who did not leave during the operating year.</b>				
		<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>	
a. Less than 1 month		9	1	
b. 1 to 2 months		9	1	
c. 3 - 6 months		9	2	
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	
<b>13. Reasons for Leaving. Participants who left during the operating year.</b>				
			<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>
a. Left for a housing opportunity before completing program			0	0
b. Completed program			3	1
c. Non-payment of rent/occupancy charge			0	0
d. Non-compliance with project			0	0
e. Criminal activity / destruction of property / violence			1	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
<b>14. Destination. Participants who left during the operating year.</b>				
			<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>
<b>PERMANENT (a - h)</b>	a. Rental house or apartment (no subsidy)		1	0

	<b>b.</b> Public Housing	0	0	
	<b>c.</b> Section 8	0	0	
	<b>d.</b> Shelter Plus Care	0	0	
	<b>e.</b> HOME subsidized house or apartment	0	0	
	<b>f.</b> Other subsidized house or apartment	0	0	
	<b>g.</b> Homeownership	0	0	
	<b>h.</b> Moved in with family or friends	0	0	
<b>TRANSITIONAL (i - j)</b>	<b>i.</b> Transitional housing for homeless persons	0	0	
	<b>j.</b> Moved in with family or friends	1	0	
<b>INSTITUTION (k - m)</b>	<b>k.</b> Psychiatric hospital	0	0	
	<b>l.</b> Inpatient alcohol/drug treatment facility	0	0	
	<b>m.</b> Jail/prison	0	0	
<b>EMERGENCY SHELTER (n)</b>	<b>n.</b> Emergency shelter	0	0	
<b>OTHER (o - q)</b>	<b>o.</b> Other supportive housing	0	0	
	<b>p.</b> Places not meant for human habitation (e.g. street)	0	0	
	<b>q.</b> Other (please specify)	1	1	
<b>UNKNOWN</b>	<b>r.</b> Unknown	1	0	
<b>15. Supportive Services. Participants who left during the operating year.</b>				
<b>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.</b>				
	<b>Service</b>	<b>Service Code</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>
1.	Housing Counseling	BH-3700	3	0
2.	Winter Clothing	BM-6500.1500-920	1	0