

# Dream Homes Community Center

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

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

**Re:** November 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 **\$46,940** in grants to end homelessness for **23 individuals** and **12 families** and **\$75,895** in grants to prevent homelessness for **41 individuals** and **37 families**.

In November 2011, we provided **\$9,605** in HPRP grants to 3 families and 5 individuals. Some of the financial highlights of the HPRP grants that were awarded this month:

### **Re-Housing:**

- **\$550 toward a Security Deposit** – for a chronically homeless man with medical and mental health disabilities to secure supportive housing; ARC collaborated with Off the Streets to cover the full balance of the deposit
- **\$900 toward a Security Deposit** – for a single woman who was living between a hotel and her vehicle after being evicted from her apartment
- **\$1,950 toward a Security Deposit** – for a female veteran and her daughter to move out of a shelter and secure permanent housing with a HUD-VASH rental voucher

### **Homelessness Prevention:**

- **\$905 Security Deposit** – to secure permanent, supportive housing for a veteran with disabilities who was facing an eviction after losing his job
- **\$1,200 toward a Security Deposit** – to secure housing for a single woman with medical disabilities, who was leaving a domestic violence situation
- **\$1,600 Security Deposit** – to secure permanent housing for a single mother and two children following a tumultuous divorce
- **\$1,000 Security Deposit** – to secure permanent housing for a single mother and two children who were doubled up with relatives
- **\$1,500 in Rental Assistance** –for a single woman with disabilities who had fallen behind in her rent after losing her job; ARC worked with her and her landlord to develop a payment plan for the balance of the rent

### III. Point of Entry

From July 1, 2011 until November 23, 2011, DHCC has provided services to **375 people (252 people in families with children and 123 adults without children)** through the Point of Entry at ARC. The following is a breakdown of people served, by towns within the Greater Danbury Area:

<b>Town</b>	<b>July 2009 – June 2010</b>	<b>July 2010 – June 2011</b>	<b>July 1 – November 23, 2011</b>
<b>Danbury</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>258</b>
Bethel	61	39	6
Brookfield	9	38	7
New Fairfield	22	25	13
New Milford	67	81	45
Newtown	11	17	3
Redding	3	6	1
Ridgefield	12	9	1
Sherman	3	6	2
Other Towns	15	78	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>375</b>

## IV. Program Highlights

Highlights – Story of one family we provided Housing Advocacy services to (names changed):

The Smiths were renting an apartment in Danbury with their 5 children. Both parents were working, but Mr. Smith's hours had been cut significantly at his retail job. Mrs. Smith's hours were also cut, and they began falling behind on their household bills. While trying to manage their \$1,250 monthly rental, their utilities, and other monthly expenses, they had to make major repairs to their car, setting them over the edge with their bills. They received an eviction notice when they fell 4 months behind in rent, and decided to seek assistance.

The Smiths found out about the Association of Religious Communities, Inc. (ARC), and the housing program, Dream Homes, from the ARC website ([www.arcforpeace.org](http://www.arcforpeace.org)). When they met with ARC's Housing & Homeless Advocate, they had already been to court for their eviction and had 1 week to be out of their apartment. They had family they could stay with for a few weeks, but would have to split of their 5 children if they did that. Both parent's hours had increased at work, but they could not save up for a security deposit before they had to be out of their apartment.

The Homeless & Housing Advocate reviewed the family's monthly budget, and with the Smiths identified some preliminary changes they could make to start decreasing their expenses, such as enrolling in a budget plan for their electric to better manage their monthly utility payments. The family was connected with the Community Action Committee of Danbury to enroll in a budget class and to sign up for the winter heat assistance program, Operation Fuel. They also completed an application for assistance with a security deposit through the Homelessness Prevention & Re-Housing Program (HPRP).

ARC's Homeless & Housing Advocate provided the family with leads on apartments that were \$1,000/month or less and the family was able to find a three-bedroom apartment for \$1,000 per month, plus utilities. The landlord was requesting only a one-month security deposit and the first month's rent. Due to the timeframe of their eviction, ARC's Homeless & Housing Advocate was able to screen their application for a deposit within a few days, and the family was approved for \$1,000 for their deposit. ARC's Homeless & Housing Advocate scheduled a housing inspection and met with the landlord the next day to review the necessary paperwork to finalize their deposit. The family was able to sign their lease and move in the next day.

Once the family moved into their new home, they received an ARC Angel Welcome Basket (valued at \$150), filled with cleaning supplies and personal care items. The parents were able to set up a budget plan for their utilities, and are successfully maintaining their new housing.

V. **HMIS Report** – Dream Homes November 1 - 23, 2011

<b>Entry/Exit Report</b>				
<b>Report Options:</b>				
Provider	Dream Homes Community Center (#330)			
	<input type="radio"/>	This provider AND its children.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	This provider ONLY.
Entry/Exit Type	HUD-40118			
Operating Year Date Range	11/01/2011	to	11/23/2011	(mm/dd/yyyy)
Legal Adult Age	18	(as defined by foster care law in your state)		
Or				
-Select-				
<b>* 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.</b>				
<b>2. Persons Served during the operating year.</b>	<b>Number of Singles Not in Families</b>	<b>Number of Adults in Families</b>	<b>Number of Children in Families</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>
a. Number on the first day of the operating year.	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	5
b. Number entering program during the operating year.	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	1
c. Number who left the program during the operating year.	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	1
d. Number in the program on the last day of the operating year. (a+b-c=d)	4	7	7	5
<b>3. Project Capacity.</b>	<b>Number of Singles Not in Families</b>	<b>Number of Adults in Families</b>	<b>Number of Children in Families</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>
a. Number on last day (from 2d, columns 1 and 4)	4			5
<b>4. Non-homeless persons. (Sec. 8 SRO projects only)</b>				
How many income-eligible non-homeless persons were housed by the SRO program during the operating year?				<u>21</u>

<b>5. Age and Gender. Of those who entered during the operating year, how many people are in the following age and gender categories?</b>				
	<b>Age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Other/Not given</b>
<b>Single Persons (from 2b, column 1)</b>	<b>a.</b> 62 and over	0	<u>1</u>	0
	<b>b.</b> 51 - 61	0	0	0
	<b>c.</b> 31 - 50	0	<u>2</u>	0
	<b>d.</b> 18 - 30	0	0	0
	<b>e.</b> 17 and under	0	0	0
	<b>Not given</b>	0	0	0
<b>Persons in Families (from 2b, columns 2 &amp; 3)</b>	<b>f.</b> 62 and over	0	0	0
	<b>g.</b> 51 - 61	0	0	0
	<b>h.</b> 31 - 50	0	0	0
	<b>i.</b> 18 - 30	0	<u>1</u>	0
	<b>j.</b> 13 - 17	0	0	0
	<b>k.</b> 6 - 12	0	0	0
	<b>l.</b> 1 - 5	0	0	0
	<b>m.</b> Under 1	0	<u>1</u>	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.				0
<b>6b. Chronically Homeless.</b>				
How many participants were chronically homeless individuals?				<u>1</u>
<b>7. Ethnicity.</b>				
<b>a.</b> Hispanic or Latino				0
<b>b.</b> Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino				<u>4</u>
<b>8. Race.</b>				
<b>a.</b> American Indian or Alaskan Native				0
<b>b.</b> Asian				0
<b>c.</b> Black or African American				0
<b>d.</b> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander				0
<b>e.</b> White				<u>3</u>
<b>f.</b> American Indian/Alaskan Native & White				0
<b>g.</b> Asian & White				0
<b>h.</b> Black/African American & White				<u>1</u>
<b>i.</b> American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African American				0
<b>j.</b> Other Multi-Racial				0
<b>k.</b> Other/Unknown (all that do not match)				0
<b>9a. Special Needs.</b>				
		<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>	
<b>a.</b> Mental illness		0	0	

<b>b.</b> Alcohol abuse	0	0		
<b>c.</b> Drug abuse	0	0		
<b>d.</b> HIV/AIDS or related diseases	0	0		
<b>e.</b> Developmental disability	0	0		
<b>f.</b> Physical disability	0	0		
<b>g.</b> Domestic violence	0	0		
<b>h.</b> Other (please specify)	0	0		
<b>9b. Disabled.</b>				
How many of the participants are disabled?		0		
<b>10. Prior Living Situation. Participants slept in the following places the week prior to entering.</b>				
	<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>		
<b>a.</b> Non-housing (street, park, car, bus station, etc.)	0	0		
<b>b.</b> Emergency shelter	<u>2</u>	0		
<b>c.</b> Transitional housing for homeless persons	0			
<b>d.</b> Psychiatric facility	0			
<b>e.</b> Substance abuse treatment facility	0			
<b>f.</b> Hospital	0			
<b>g.</b> Jail/prison	0			
<b>h.</b> Domestic violence situation	0			
<b>i.</b> Living with relatives/friends	<u>1</u>			
<b>j.</b> Rental housing	0			
<b>k.</b> Other (please specify)	<u>1</u>			
<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>
<b>a.</b> No Income	0	0	0	0
<b>b.</b> \$1-150	0	0	0	0
<b>c.</b> \$151 - \$250	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	0
<b>d.</b> \$251 - \$500	0	0	0	0
<b>e.</b> \$501 - \$1000	0	0	0	0
<b>f.</b> \$1001 - \$1500	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	0
<b>g.</b> \$1501 - \$2000	0	0	0	0
<b>h.</b> \$2000 +	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	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>
<b>a.</b> Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	0	0	0	0
<b>b.</b> Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	0
<b>c.</b> Social Security	0	0	0	0
<b>d.</b> General Public Assistance	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	0
<b>e.</b> Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	0

<b>f.</b> State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)	0	0	0	0
<b>g.</b> Veterans benefits	0	0	0	0
<b>h.</b> Employment Income	0	0	0	0
<b>i.</b> Unemployment Benefits	0	0	0	0
<b>j.</b> Veteran's Health Care	0	0	0	0
<b>k.</b> Medicaid	0	0	0	0
<b>l.</b> Food Stamps	<u>3</u>	0	<u>3</u>	0
<b>m.</b> Other (please specify)	<u>2</u>	0	<u>2</u>	0
<b>n.</b> No financial resources	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	0
<b>12a. Length of Stay in Program. Participants who left during the operating year.</b>				
		<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>	
<b>a.</b> Less than 1 month		<u>3</u>	0	
<b>b.</b> 1 to 2 months		0	0	
<b>c.</b> 3 - 6 months		0	0	
<b>d.</b> 7 months - 12 months		0	0	
<b>e.</b> 13 months - 24 months		0	0	
<b>f.</b> 25 months - 3 years		0	0	
<b>g.</b> 4 years - 5 years		0	0	
<b>h.</b> 6 years - 7 years		0	0	
<b>i.</b> 8 years - 10 years		0	0	
<b>j.</b> 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>	
<b>a.</b> Less than 1 month		<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	
<b>b.</b> 1 to 2 months		<u>3</u>	0	
<b>c.</b> 3 - 6 months		0	0	
<b>d.</b> 7 months - 12 months		0	0	
<b>e.</b> 13 months - 24 months		0	0	
<b>f.</b> 25 months - 3 years		0	0	
<b>g.</b> 4 years - 5 years		0	0	
<b>h.</b> 6 years - 7 years		0	0	
<b>i.</b> 8 years - 10 years		0	0	
<b>j.</b> over 10 years		0	0	
<b>13. Reasons for Leaving. Participants who left during the operating year.</b>				
			<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>
<b>a.</b> Left for a housing opportunity before completing program			0	0
<b>b.</b> Completed program			<u>2</u>	0
<b>c.</b> Non-payment of rent/occupancy charge			0	0
<b>d.</b> Non-compliance with project			0	0
<b>e.</b> Criminal activity / destruction of property / violence			0	0
<b>f.</b> Reached maximum time allowed in project			0	0

<b>g.</b> Needs could not be met by project		0	0
<b>h.</b> Disagreement with rules/persons		0	0
<b>i.</b> Death		0	0
<b>j.</b> Other (please specify)		0	0
<b>k.</b> Unknown/disappeared		<u>1</u>	0
<b>14. Destination. Participants who left during the operating year.</b>			
		<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>
<b>PERMANENT</b> (a - h)	<b>a.</b> Rental house or apartment (no subsidy)	<u>1</u>	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	<u>1</u>	0
	<b>g.</b> Homeownership	0	0
	<b>h.</b> Moved in with family or friends	0	0
<b>TRANSITIONAL</b> (i - j)	<b>i.</b> Transitional housing for homeless persons	0	0
	<b>j.</b> Moved in with family or friends	0	0
<b>INSTITUTION</b> (k - m)	<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</b> (n)	<b>n.</b> Emergency shelter	0	0
<b>OTHER</b> (o - q)	<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)	0	0
<b>UNKNOWN</b>	<b>r.</b> Unknown	<u>1</u>	0
<b>15. Supportive Services. Participants who left during the operating year.</b>			
No supportive services found.			