



**Dream Homes Community Center**

To: Mayor Mark Boughton and the City Council

From: Sharice Coleman, Homeless & Housing Advocate

Re: May, 2014 Monthly Report

cc: ARC Executive Director & ARC Board of Directors

I. Program Synopsis

Per the proposal endorsed by Mayor Boughton and the City 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. Program Updates

Dream Homes Community Center continues to put the “Boots on the Ground” in the efforts to end homelessness. The number of people served throughout Danbury continues to increase. Through our Coordinated Access Services, Dream Homes Community Center has served 553 people in the city of Danbury alone since July 1, 2013.

Point of Entry

Since July 1, 2013, DHCC has provided services to 915 people through the Point of Entry at ARC. The following is a breakdown by town:

Town	July 2011 – June 2012	July 2012- June 2013	July 2013-May 2014
Danbury	592	590	615
Bethel	26	62	51
Brookfield	33	14	21
New Fairfield	34	22	10
New Milford	77	68	87
Newtown	4	16	24
Redding	7	0	0
Ridgefield	8	5	20
Sherman	2	1	4
Other Towns	45	58	83
Total	828	836	915

III. Outreach Highlights: Dream Homes Staff attended the following meetings and trainings:

- ARC's Executive Director Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold attended the Continuum of Care meeting held at City Hall.
- ARC's Executive Director Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold along with Homeless and Housing Advocate Sharice Coleman and Healthier Ely attended the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) meeting held at City Hall.
- ARC's Executive Director Rev. Phyllis Leopold attended the Danbury Housing Partnership meeting held at City Hall.

IV. Financial Highlights:

- ARC has linked 5 households to Security Deposit assistance, totaling \$5,600
- ARC has housed 1 household through the Vouchers program which was secured for chronically homeless veterans. ARC will pay 100% of rent. Program still remains open to all.
- ARC secured a \$10,000 to be utilized for people who were homeless to continue education (college or career training class). Program is open to all.

V. Program Highlights—Story of one family served by DHCC this month (names changed)

A Point of Entry and Coordinated Access Success Story

“Tanya”

Tanya, a single mother of two teenage children was referred to ARC by a friend who previously received assistance through ARC. Tanya asked to leave their home because the home was being foreclosed. The family had until the end of the month to find somewhere to live or else they would be on the street and lose their Section 8 Voucher.

ARC’s Homeless and Housing Advocate met with Tanya to conduct an intake and establish needs and assessment. Tanya worked full time at one of the local supermarkets making minimum wage. It was crucial for Tanya to keep her Section 8 Voucher or else she would not be able to afford to pay rent. Homeless and Housing advocate reviewed Tanya’s income and her expenses. Since Tanya’s home was being foreclosed, she wasn’t paying rent and had the opportunity to set money aside toward her security deposit for her new apartment.

Tanya was having difficulty finding landlords that would accept her Section 8 Voucher. ARC’s Homeless and Housing Advocate connected Tanya to a couple of landlords that were known to rent to people with section 8 vouchers. Through the connection, Tanya was able to find two apartments that she really liked. Homeless and Housing Advocate met with Tanya to look at both apartments. Tanya did not like the first apartment because it was two bedroom and was small for her and her two kids. The second apartment was a three bedroom which was suitable for Tanya and her family. Homeless and Housing Advocate conducted the housing inspection and ensured apartment met all CT-Habitability requirements. ARC’s Homeless and Housing Advocate then reviewed the tenant rights and responsibilities and assisted Tanya with reading and understanding her lease agreement. ARC was able to supply financial assistance to help Tanya with her security deposit for her new apartment. Tanya and her family remain stably housed.