



28

CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

DANBURY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

(203) 797-4625

March 25, 2009

The Honorable Mark D. Boughton, Mayor
Honorable Members of the Common Council
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810

RE: Annual Progress Report On Implementation of Danbury's Ten-Year Plan To End Homelessness

Dear Mayor Boughton and Council Members:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the second annual progress report of the Danbury Housing Partnership. This report is submitted as required by Section 10-76 (3) of the Code of Ordinances that directs the Partnership to provide annual reports to the Mayor and the Common Council summarizing the measures taken in the prior year to implement the Plan to End Homelessness in Ten Years as adopted by the Common Council.

The Danbury Housing Partnership continues to aggressively oversee measures to implement the Ten-Year Plan. Thanks to the efforts of our standing committees, the Greater Danbury Continuum of Care and our dedicated community partners, significant progress was made in implementing the plan despite the widespread economic downturn. The annual report provides updates on the progress being made to implement the recommendations in the plan. A copy of the detailed report is on file with the City Clerk's Office.

In the face of the gathering economic storm, Danbury pulled together as a community to ensure that we continued to make progress in the past year towards implementing the goals of the plan. We are pleased to report that thanks to the efforts of our community partners the permanent housing production goals outlined in the plan continue to be exceeded. Danbury Project Homeless Connect continues to grow as a vehicle to supply services as well as to create community awareness about the issue of homelessness. Some exciting new ventures to help address homelessness in Danbury came to fruition during the past year. The First Annual Danbury Housing Partnership Awards recognizing and encouraging efforts to create affordable housing and help end homelessness were presented at the Partnership Community Breakfast in October. The Partnership also launched its website, www.danburyhousingpartnership.org, to serve a community resource for issues involving housing and homelessness.

Important new programs and facilities were established in Danbury this year. MCCA Incorporated opened Sunrise Terrace, a new transitional housing facility with sixteen beds for persons who have recovered from substance abuse. Christian Community Outreach Ministries opened Discipleship House, a sixteen bed facility with supportive services to help homeless individuals transition to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Danbury's Veterans Housing Workgroup had a successful year implementing the Housing For Heroes initiative

www.danburyhousingpartnership.org

28-1

to provide a range of housing opportunities for veterans. The City received a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to establish five transitional housing beds at the City shelter. The Non-Profit Development Corporation of Danbury received a major capital grant from the VA and in collaboration with the City, the Housing Authority of the City of Danbury and other partners has begun work on establishing Vet House, a facility to provide transitional housing for six homeless veterans as well as four permanent housing units.

The Jericho Partnership achieved several milestones this year, opening a new overflow shelter for individuals who are homeless as well as establishing the Good Samaritan Center housing a variety of service programs. Danbury also became the home of a Federally Qualified Health Center established by Community Health Center, Inc. a Connecticut-based organization with extensive experience in meeting the health care needs of people who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Dream Homes Community Center received a grant under Connecticut's innovative Beyond Shelter Program enabling them to provide case management to help seven families and seven individuals transition from City shelters into permanent housing.

The economic turmoil that has already affected so many of our residents seems likely to continue and will call forth from us even further efforts at the very time when the resources available to deal with our increasing challenges are diminishing at all levels. At a point in history where any one of us could be a layoff notice away from facing the prospect of hardship and homelessness, we promise to re-double our efforts to bring community resources together to both prevent and end homelessness in Danbury. While our timetable for accomplishing specific tasks may be altered by financial realities, Danbury is well positioned to stand up to our economic challenges and to continue to make progress towards achieving your ultimate goal of ending homelessness in our community.

Very respectfully yours,



Mark J. Nolan
Chair

Cc: M. Carolyn Sistrunk, Vice-Chair
Susan Zaborowski, Secretary
Hon. Jean Natale, City Clerk