

# Dream Homes Community Center

**To:** Mayor Mark Boughton and the Common Council  
**From:** Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold  
**Re:** March 2010 monthly report

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## I. Program Synopsis

Per the proposal endorsed by Mayor Boughton and the Common Council, Dream Homes Community Center (DHCC) was established 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. Point of Entry

From July 1, 2009 until March 25, 2010, DHCC has met with **118 families** and **102 individuals** through the Point of Entry. One highlight from this month involves a person I will nickname “Rob”:

Rob first came to Dream Homes in late October 2009. He and his wife had broken up earlier that year, and he had been homeless since. He was bouncing between the shelters and his mother’s apartment, who lives in public housing and could only let Rob stay a few days out of the month.

Rob receives Social Security Disability, and also works a part-time job here in Danbury. Rob was having a hard time getting into his own place. When we met, we talked about the different apartments that were for persons with disabilities that he would be eligible for and I got him some of the applications.

About a month later, Rob called again. He had the applications but was having a hard time filling them out. We set an appointment to go over them together and I told him I would help make sure he had all the information he needed to do that.

A few months went by before I saw Rob again. He had gotten sick and been in and out of the hospital. His friends have said he couldn’t stay with them any longer, so he was staying between the shelter and his mother’s. We met in early March to complete the applications he had gotten in the winter.

One of the apartments he applied for had a unit opening up in April. We contacted the landlord, and I recommended Rob for the open apartment, explaining Rob would be enrolling in our case management program and would receive follow up services for 12 months. A week later, Rob was offered the apartment.

We helped Rob to collect all of his income information and references he needed for the apartment. Since he is staying at the shelter, he is eligible for to have his whole

security deposit covered by the Department of Social Services' "Security Deposit Guarantee Program."

Rob is set to move in April 1, and is thrilled to have a place to call his own after being homeless for almost a year. His next goal is to pursue getting his GED, and working to improve his credit. ARC will continue to work with Rob to maintain his housing and manage his budget.

### **III. Supportive Housing/Rentals and Home Ownership**

**Housing for Heroes** – ARC is continuing to provide intake and screening services to the NPDCD and the *Vet House*. In March, two (2) potential applicants were screened for transitional units at the *Vet House*.

We are continuing to work with one candidate, and the other has decided to try to get his own apartment. ARC is continuing to work with NPDCD, the City Shelter, the VA, and others to increase outreach to potential candidates.

### **IV. Outreach & Program Development**

**Danbury Continuum of Care** – The Continuum met on March 9 at 2:00 in the Danbury City Hall. Milena Sangut (WCMHN), Michele Condorino (HOT), Gladys McFarland (Amos House), Dawn Wilson (MCCA), Sue Zaborowski (COD), Lisa Farmer (CACD), Peg Molina (NMSS), Steve DiLella (DMHAS) and Nikki Singer (ARC/DHCC) were present. Steve DiLella discussed the advantages to Danbury's COC joining the Balance of State COC, as well as some of the drawbacks. Of note, the Danbury would be able to apply for a higher amount of funding, but would be limited to applying for new funding once every four years. The HMIS grant, currently held by ARC, might also be jeopardized. The Continuum decided to hold off on voting so that agencies could evaluate how this would affect their programs.

The Continuum has established two new working groups, one for families who are homeless and one for young adults who are homeless. Michele Condorino will chair the Young Adults working group, and Gladys McFarland will chair the Family Homelessness working group.

**HPRP Screening Committee** – The committee met on March 23 at 9:30 at ARC. The committee reviewed a total of 16 cases. Three cases were approved for funding, seven cases need additional work, and six were denied.

**HPRP Executive Meeting** – No activity. Cancelled due to snow.

**Homeless Consortium** – The Homeless Consortium met on March 18 at 1:30 at the Danbury City Shelter. Michele Condorino (HOT), Awilda Perez (HOT), Mike Finn

(COD), Shirley Ricard (WeCAHR), Judy Sheriden (Renewal House), Annie Orr (First Congregational Church), Lisa Farmer (CACD), and Nikki Singer (ARC/DHCC) were present. Nikki gave an update of the HPRP as well as reviewing screening tools and referral process. Annie gave an update of the Overflow Shelter and also about Off the Streets, NOW.

**Housing Partnership, Social and Supportive Services Committee** – Met March 3 at 9:30 in the Danbury City Hall. Denise Valeri, Sue Zaborowski (COD), and Nikki Singer (ARC/DHCC) were present. Nikki reported on Dream Homes and handed out an HMIS report for the Danbury area, from January 2010 to February 2010. Nikki noted the steady increase in the number of families experiencing homelessness, as well as the increase in the number of children in families who are homeless.

**V. Fundraising:**

**VI. HMIS Report – 03/01/10 – 03/29/10:**

<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>26</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>29</u>	14
b. Number entering program during the operating year.	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	3
c. Number who left the program during the operating year.	0	<u>1</u>	0	0
d. Number in the program on the last day of the operating year. (a+b-c=d)	34	24	34	17
<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)	34			17
<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>39</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>	a. 62 and over	0	<u>1</u>	0
	b. 51 - 61	<u>2</u>	0	0
	c. 31 - 50	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	0
	d. 18 - 30	0	0	<u>1</u>

	e. 17 and under	0	0	0
	<b>Not given</b>	0	0	<u>1</u>
<b>Persons in Families (from 2b, columns 2 &amp; 3)</b>	f. 62 and over	0	0	0
	g. 51 - 61	0	0	0
	h. 31 - 50	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	0
	i. 18 - 30	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	0
	j. 13 - 17	0	0	0
	k. 6 - 12	0	0	<u>2</u>
	l. 1 - 5	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	0
	m. Under 1	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.				<u>2</u>
<b>6b. Chronically Homeless.</b>				
How many participants were chronically homeless individuals?				<u>1</u>
<b>7. Ethnicity.</b>				
a. Hispanic or Latino				<u>8</u>
b. Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino				<u>7</u>
<b>8. Race.</b>				
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				<u>6</u>
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				<u>2</u>
k. Other/Unknown (all that do not match)				<u>7</u>
<b>9a. Special Needs.</b>				
		<b>All</b>	<b>Chronic</b>	
a. Mental illness		<u>1</u>	0	
b. Alcohol abuse		0	0	
c. Drug abuse		0	0	
d. HIV/AIDS or related diseases		0	0	
e. Developmental disability		<u>1</u>	0	
f. Physical disability		0	0	
g. Domestic violence		<u>1</u>	0	
h. Other (please specify)		<u>1</u>	0	

<b>9b. Disabled.</b>				
How many of the participants are disabled?				<u>2</u>
<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	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>		
c. Transitional housing for homeless persons	<u>1</u>			
d. Psychiatric facility	0			
e. Substance abuse treatment facility	0			
f. Hospital	0			
g. Jail/prison	<u>1</u>			
h. Domestic violence situation	0			
i. Living with relatives/friends	<u>4</u>			
j. Rental housing	0			
k. Other (please specify)	<u>7</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>
a. No Income	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	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	0	0	0	0
f. \$1001 - \$1500	0	0	0	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)	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	0	0	0	0
i. Unemployment Benefits	0	0	0	0
j. Veteran's Health Care	0	0	0	0
k. Medicaid	0	0	0	0

<b>l.</b> Food Stamps	0	0	0	0
<b>m.</b> Other (please specify)	0	0	0	0
<b>n.</b> No financial resources	1	0	1	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		0	0	
<b>b.</b> 1 to 2 months		<u>1</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>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>15</u>	<u>1</u>	
<b>b.</b> 1 to 2 months		<u>18</u>	<u>7</u>	
<b>c.</b> 3 - 6 months		<u>15</u>	<u>1</u>	
<b>d.</b> 7 months - 12 months		<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	
<b>e.</b> 13 months - 24 months		<u>3</u>	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			0	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)	0	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</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