

Dream Homes Community Center

To: Mayor Mark Boughton and the Common Council

From: Nikki Singer, Homeless/Housing Advocate

Re: April 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 **\$24,270** in grants to end homelessness for **11 individuals** and **9 families** and **\$58,717** in grants to prevent homelessness for **26 individuals** and **28 families**.

In April 2011, we provided **\$9,073** in HPRP grants to 5 families and 4 individuals. Some of the financial highlights of the HPRP grants that were awarded this month:

April HPRP Grants

Re-Housing:

- **\$1,198** Security Deposit – to secure housing for a single mother and her 2 year old son moving out of Harmony House
- **\$1,500** Security Deposit – to secure housing for a homeless Veteran receiving a VASH voucher for supportive housing
- **\$400** 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:

- **\$575** Security Deposit – to secure housing for a single man moving out of a transitional housing program
- **\$1,075** Security Deposit and **\$425** Rent Payment – to secure new, affordable housing for a family with two sons, who were being evicted from their current housing
- **\$850** Security Deposit and **\$650** Rent Payment – to secure new, safe housing for a single woman to leave an unhealthy and unstable house share
- **\$750** Security Deposit – to secure permanent housing for a woman and her daughter who were doubled up with family in senior housing
- **\$1,200** Security Deposit – to secure housing for a single woman in her 80s, who was doubled up with her daughter in public housing
- **\$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 April 25, 2011, DHCC has provided services to **642 people** (436 people in families with children and 206 adults without children) through the Point of Entry at ARC.

One highlight involves a family I will nickname “the Freemans”

The Freemans were renting an apartment in Danbury with their two sons. Mr. Freeman is a contracted but had been out of work for almost three years, and his wife had been unemployed for the last two years. Their unemployment benefits ended in January 2011, and they had no income to pay their rent and other expenses. In February they decided to apply for cash assistance through the Department of Social Services. They were approved, but it would not be enough to pay their bills, and they had just been served with eviction papers.

In March they were referred to the Dream Homes Community Center by the United Way 211-Infoline. Mr. Freeman explained his situation to the DHCC Homeless/Housing Advocate. Mrs. Freeman had just signed an employment contract, and would be earning enough income to retain their apartment, however, their landlord was not agreeable and asked them to leave. They had been to court, and their move out date was March 28. The Homeless/Housing Advocate scheduled an appointment with Mr. Freeman to come in and apply for financial assistance to secure a new apartment.

They meet 5 days before the Freeman’s move out date. Because they had to be out of their housing in less than one week and lacked resources to obtain new housing, they were eligible for homeless assistance programs, including Housing First for Families, a case management to help them secure and retain housing by providing advocacy to landlords, budget guidance, and follow up services. Mr. Freeman completed an application for financial assistance with moving and to enroll in Housing First for Families.

The Homeless/Housing Advocate was able to expedite the Freeman’s application and have it approved within 24 hours by the HPRP screening committee. She also worked with Mr. Freeman to find an affordable rental from a landlord DHCC had an existing partnership with. The landlord agreed to rent the unit to the Freeman’s, despite the current eviction, contingent on the family’s continued participation in Housing First for Families. The Homeless/Housing Advocate and Mr. Freeman also talked to his current landlord, who agreed to give the family an extension until March 31, when the new apartment would be ready to move in.

The Freemans were approved for the full amount of the security deposit (\$1,075) and a portion of the first month’s rent (\$425), and were able to move on March 31. They continue to receive follow up services through Dream Homes Community Center to retain their new apartment.

IV. Seeds of Change

On April 3 ARC hosted the first “Seeds of Change” Dinner for Dream Homes and members of a religious organization. There were 14 participants: 6 people who had been housed through Dream Homes and 8 members of the religious organization (3 youth members and 5 adults). The purpose of the evening was to build bridges of understanding between people who may have stereotypes about each other, and otherwise no venue to meet face to face. The religious organization provided a home cooked meal for all participants. There were also ice-breakers, personal story time, and interactive games. Meeting concluded with an anonymous survey completed by all participants. To build on this work and deepen relationships, the participants will meet again in June and September. Feedback on the April Seeds of Change was all positive, in the words of one youth, “I’m really glad I came because I never would have met people who had been homeless and spend time talking to each other.”

V. HMIS Report

Dream Homes Community Center: April 1 – April 25, 2011

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.	18	12	15	9
b. Number entering program during the operating year.	7	4	6	4
c. Number who left the program during the operating year.	3	2	3	2
d. Number in the program on the last day of the operating year. (a+b-c=d)	22	14	18	11
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)	22			11
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?				

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	1	1	0
	b. 51 - 61	1	0	0
	c. 31 - 50	2	0	0
	d. 18 - 30	1	1	0
	e. 17 and under	0	0	0
	Not given	0	0	0
Persons in Families (from 2b, columns 2 & 3)	f. 62 and over	0	0	0
	g. 51 - 61	0	0	0
	h. 31 - 50	0	1	0
	i. 18 - 30	0	3	0
	j. 13 - 17	0	0	0
	k. 6 - 12	0	0	0
	l. 1 - 5	5	0	0
	m. Under 1	1	0	0
	Not given	0	0	0
	6 - 10. Participants who entered during the operating year.			
6a. Veterans Status.				
A veteran is anyone who has ever been on active military duty status.				1
6b. Chronically Homeless.				
How many participants were chronically homeless individuals?				1
7. Ethnicity.				
a. Hispanic or Latino				2
b. Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino				9
8. Race.				
a. American Indian or Alaskan Native				0
b. Asian				0
c. Black or African American				1
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander				0
e. White				9
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			0
k. Other/Unknown (all that do not match)			1
9a. Special Needs.			
	All	Chronic	
a. Mental illness	1	0	
b. Alcohol abuse	0	0	
c. Drug abuse	0	0	
d. HIV/AIDS or related diseases	0	0	
e. Developmental disability	1	0	
f. Physical disability	1	0	
g. Domestic violence	3	1	
h. Other (please specify)	0	0	
9b. Disabled.			
How many of the participants are disabled?			2
10. Prior Living Situation. Participants slept in the following places the week prior to entering.			
	All	Chronic	
a. Non-housing (street, park, car, bus station, etc.)	0	0	
b. Emergency shelter	4	0	
c. Transitional housing for homeless persons	0		
d. Psychiatric facility	0		
e. Substance abuse treatment facility	0		
f. Hospital	0		
g. Jail/prison	1		
h. Domestic violence situation	0		
i. Living with relatives/friends	2		
j. Rental housing	1		
k. Other (please specify)	3		
11. Amount and Source of Monthly Income at Entry and Exit. Participants who left during the operating year.			
Amount	A. Monthly Income at Entry	B. Monthly Income at Exit	

	All	Chronic	All	Chronic
a. No Income	2	1	2	1
b. \$1-150	0	0	0	0
c. \$151 - \$250	0	0	0	0
d. \$251 - \$500	0	0	0	0
e. \$501 - \$1000	1	0	1	0
f. \$1001 - \$1500	0	0	0	0
g. \$1501 - \$2000	2	0	2	0
h. \$2000 +	0	0	0	0
Source	C. Income Sources at Entry		D. Income Sources at Exit	
	All	Chronic	All	Chronic
a. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	0	0	0	0
b. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	1	0	1	0
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	0	2	0
m. Other (please specify)	1	0	1	0
n. No financial resources	2	1	2	1
12a. Length of Stay in Program. Participants who left during the operating year.				
	All	Chronic		
a. Less than 1 month	5	1		
b. 1 to 2 months	0	0		
c. 3 - 6 months	0	0		
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	
12b. Length of Stay in Program. Participants who did not leave during the operating year.			
	All	Chronic	
a. Less than 1 month	9	0	
b. 1 to 2 months	8	0	
c. 3 - 6 months	10	1	
d. 7 months - 12 months	2	1	
e. 13 months - 24 months	1	0	
f. 25 months - 3 years	2	0	
g. 4 years - 5 years	4	1	
h. 6 years - 7 years	0	0	
i. 8 years - 10 years	0	0	
j. over 10 years	0	0	
13. Reasons for Leaving. Participants who left during the operating year.			
	All	Chronic	
a. Left for a housing opportunity before completing program	0	0	
b. Completed program	4	1	
c. Non-payment of rent/occupancy charge	0	0	
d. Non-compliance with project	0	0	
e. Criminal activity / destruction of property / violence	0	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	1	0	
i. Death	0	0	
j. Other (please specify)	0	0	
k. Unknown/disappeared	0	0	
14. Destination. Participants who left during the operating year.			
	All	Chronic	
PERMANENT (a - h)	a. Rental house or apartment (no subsidy)	0	0
	b. Public Housing	0	0

	c. Section 8	0	0
	d. Shelter Plus Care	0	0
	e. HOME subsidized house or apartment	0	0
	f. Other subsidized house or apartment	0	0
	g. Homeownership	0	0
	h. Moved in with family or friends	0	0
TRANSITIONAL (i - j)	i. Transitional housing for homeless persons	0	0
	j. Moved in with family or friends	4	1
INSTITUTION (k - m)	k. Psychiatric hospital	0	0
	l. Inpatient alcohol/drug treatment facility	0	0
	m. Jail/prison	0	0
EMERGENCY SHELTER (n)	n. Emergency shelter	0	0
OTHER (o - q)	o. Other supportive housing	1	0
	p. Places not meant for human habitation (e.g. street)	0	0
	q. Other (please specify)	0	0
UNKNOWN	r. Unknown	0	0

15. Supportive Services. Participants who left during the operating year.

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.

	Service	Service Code	All	Chronic
1.	Housing Counseling	BH-3700	4	0