

Dream Homes Community Center

To: Mayor Mark Boughton and the City Council

From: Nikki Singer, Homeless and Housing Advocate

Re: April 2012 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. *NEW* HUD Leasing Vouchers

In October 2010, ARC submitted an application to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for 2 “**Lease Only**” **Supportive Housing Vouchers**. The two vouchers provide rental assistance for two single adults who are homeless and have a disability. The vouchers cover 100% of the recipients’ rent for 2 years. We were awarded the contract by HUD at the end of 2011 and began accepting applications in February 2012. We awarded the vouchers to 2 people who are chronically homeless and have both medical and mental health disabilities. We are providing follow up case management to both program participants to help them successfully transition from homelessness to permanent housing, and to remain housed.

III. 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 our original contract**, we secured an **additional \$72,136** in aid for the Danbury area – a total of **\$277,768** to support to the City’s “Ten Year Plan To End Homelessness”.

Since October 2009, we have provided a total of **\$59,765** in grants to end homelessness for **26 individuals** and **16 families** and **\$122,211** in grants to prevent homelessness for **49 individuals** and **50 families**. As of February 15, 2012, we are no longer accepting new applications for the **HPRP program**. We continue to case manage and provide financial assistance for applications received by this date.

From April 1 -20, 2012, we provided **\$4,475** in HPRP grants to **3 families and 4 single adults**. Highlights of the HPRP grants that were awarded this month include:

Re-Housing:

- **\$825 Security Deposit** – for a single woman who was chronically homeless with medical disabilities, to secure permanent housing after being awarded a HUD supportive housing voucher through ARC..
- **\$100 Security Deposit** – for a single mother who has been “doubled up” with different friends and family for 1 ½ years to secure permanent housing at Eden Drive.
- **\$900 Security Deposit** – for a chronically homeless veteran to sustain housing.
- **\$150 Rental Assistance** – for a single mother and her daughter, who were previously living in the Harmony House family shelter, to sustain permanent housing after being homeless for one year.

Homelessness Prevention:

- **\$2,000 toward Back Rent** – for a couple with no children, to begin a payment plan toward their balance of \$3,300, due to both becoming unemployed. The grant prevented their eviction and they were able to remain in their housing.
- **\$500 toward a Security Deposit** – for a single woman with chronic disabilities, to move into new safer and more sanitary permanent housing.

IV. Point of Entry

From July 1, 2011 until April 20, 2012, DHCC has provided services to **706 people (494 people in families with children and 215 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:

Town	July 2009 - June 2010	July 2010 - June 2011	July 1 - April 20, 2012
Danbury	552	535	502
Bethel	61	39	18
Brookfield	9	38	26
New Fairfield	22	25	33
New Milford	67	81	67
Newtown	11	17	3
Redding	3	6	7
Ridgefield	12	9	4
Sherman	3	6	2
Other Towns	15	78	44
Total	737	834	706

V. Program Highlights

In 2012, the Association of Religious Communities was awarded a contract from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (**HUD**) to provide **two “lease only” vouchers** to 2 people who were homeless and had a disability. The two vouchers will pay **100%** of a monthly rental, for two years, for the program participants. “Jenna” (*names have been changed*) is one of the people who has received a HUD leasing voucher.

Jenna became homeless after she was laid off from her job and was unable to afford her rent on her unemployment benefits. She began utilizing the **Dorothy Day** emergency shelter after being evicted, and this would be her primary residence for much of the next 2 years. Jenna has a number of medical problems which prevented her from finding gainful employment.

Jenna met **ARC’s** Homeless and Housing Advocate at the **Morning Glory** breakfast program shortly after becoming homeless. They discussed Jenna’s situation, and agreed to meet later that day at **ARC** to complete applications for low-income housing, which Jenna would be able to qualify for because of her medical disabilities. **ARC** also referred Jenna to **WeCAHR** for help in applying for Social Security Disability Benefits.

Over the next two years, **ARC’s** Homeless and Housing Advocate kept in contact with Jenna to alert her to any new housing opportunities that might become available. When **ARC** was awarded a contract from **HUD** for supportive housing vouchers, the Homeless and Housing Advocate forwarded an application to Jenna’s advocate with WeCAHR. Jenna’s application was turned in and placed at the top of the list for a rental voucher.

A few weeks later, Jenna was notified that her application was approved for a voucher which would cover 100% of her rent. Jenna had also been approved in January for Social Security Disability payments, and would be able to cover her utilities and other expenses to be stably housed in an apartment. Jenna, **ARC’s** Homeless and Housing Advocate, and her WeCAHR advocate began looking for an apartment that would meet Jenna’s needs.

Once Jenna identified an apartment, she applied for a security deposit through **ARC’s** Homeless Prevention and Re-Housing Program (**HPRP**), and was approved for a one-month deposit. **ARC** connected Jenna with **Make A Home Foundation** to coordinate furniture donations including a bed, kitchen set, recliner and TV. Jenna also received an **ARC Angel “Welcome Basket”** and kitchen appliances from **ARC**. Jenna was able to move into her apartment just as the “overflow” shelters closed for the summer.

Nearly 2 ½ years after her world fell apart – losing her job and her home – Jenna now has a safe, stable and permanent house to call – “Home”.

VI. HMIS Report – Dream Homes Community Center July 1, 2011 – April 20, 2012

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.	2	6	6	5
b. Number entering program during the operating year.	70	33	46	27
c. Number who left the program during the operating year.	69	35	47	29
d. Number in the program on the last day of the operating year. (a+b-c=d)	3	4	5	3
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)	3			3
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?				134
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	4	2	0
	b. 51 - 61	12	7	0
	c. 31 - 50	13	18	0
	d. 18 - 30	5	6	0
	e. 17 and under	0	0	0
	Not given	1	0	2
Persons in Families (from 2b, columns 2 & 3)	f. 62 and over	0	0	0
	g. 51 - 61	0	0	0
	h. 31 - 50	1	15	0
	i. 18 - 30	4	13	0
	j. 13 - 17	5	4	0
	k. 6 - 12	7	4	0
	l. 1 - 5	12	9	0
	m. Under 1	3	2	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.				18
6b. Chronically Homeless.				
How many participants were chronically homeless individuals?				22
7. Ethnicity.				
a. Hispanic or Latino				18

b. Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino			85
8. Race.			
a. American Indian or Alaskan Native			1
b. Asian			8
c. Black or African American			20
d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander			0
e. White			65
f. American Indian/Alaskan Native & White			1
g. Asian & White			0
h. Black/African American & White			4
i. American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African American			0
j. Other Multi-Racial			0
k. Other/Unknown (all that do not match)			4
9a. Special Needs.			
	All	Chronic	
a. Mental illness	23	12	
b. Alcohol abuse	2	0	
c. Drug abuse	1	1	
d. HIV/AIDS or related diseases	0	0	
e. Developmental disability	2	0	
f. Physical disability	18	6	
g. Domestic violence	27	6	
h. Other (please specify)	4	2	
9b. Disabled.			
How many of the participants are disabled?			41
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.)	11	4	
b. Emergency shelter	29	11	
c. Transitional housing for homeless persons	5		
d. Psychiatric facility	2		
e. Substance abuse treatment facility	1		
f. Hospital	0		
g. Jail/prison	0		
h. Domestic violence situation	0		
i. Living with relatives/friends	24		
j. Rental housing	8		
k. Other (please specify)	23		
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	24	1	21	1
b. \$1-150	0	0	0	0
c. \$151 - \$250	14	5	15	5
d. \$251 - \$500	4	1	3	1
e. \$501 - \$1000	25	8	25	8
f. \$1001 - \$1500	8	3	9	3
g. \$1501 - \$2000	11	0	12	1
h. \$2000 +	15	1	16	0
Source	C. Income Sources at Entry		D. Income Sources at Exit	
	All	Chronic	All	Chronic
a. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	10	3	10	3
b. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	13	3	13	3
c. Social Security	1	0	1	0
d. General Public Assistance	1	0	1	0
e. Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	8	3	9	4
f. State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)	3	1	3	1
g. Veterans benefits	4	2	4	2
h. Employment Income	38	6	39	6
i. Unemployment Benefits	3	1	5	1
j. Veteran's Health Care	4	2	4	2
k. Medicaid	14	6	15	6
l. Food Stamps	45	13	47	13
m. Other (please specify)	20	2	22	3
n. No financial resources	40	5	37	4
12a. Length of Stay in Program. Participants who left during the operating year.				
	All	Chronic		
a. Less than 1 month	77	15		
b. 1 to 2 months	18	5		
c. 3 - 6 months	9	1		
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	4	1		

b. 1 to 2 months	2	1
c. 3 - 6 months	1	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

13. Reasons for Leaving. Participants who left during the operating year.

	All	Chronic
a. Left for a housing opportunity before completing program	3	0
b. Completed program	74	17
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	7	0
h. Disagreement with rules/persons	2	2
i. Death	0	0
j. Other (please specify)	0	0
k. Unknown/disappeared	18	2

14. Destination. Participants who left during the operating year.

		All	Chronic
PERMANENT (a - h)	a. Rental house or apartment (no subsidy)	19	0
	b. Public Housing	0	0
	c. Section 8	0	0
	d. Shelter Plus Care	1	1
	e. HOME subsidized house or apartment	0	0
	f. Other subsidized house or apartment	11	5
	g. Homeownership	0	0
	h. Moved in with family or friends	0	0
TRANSITIONAL (i - j)	i. Transitional housing for homeless persons	9	2
	j. Moved in with family or friends	13	3
INSTITUTION (k - m)	k. Psychiatric hospital	0	0
	l. Inpatient alcohol/drug treatment facility	1	0
	m. Jail/prison	0	0
EMERGENCY SHELTER (n)	n. Emergency shelter	15	5
OTHER (o - q)	o. Other supportive housing	2	0
	p. Places not meant for human habitation (e.g. street)	5	2

	q. Other (please specify)	3	0
UNKNOWN	r. Unknown	25	3

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	10	1
2.	Rental Deposit Assistance	BH-3800.7250	12	2
3.	Housing Search and Information	BH-3900	2	0
4.	Housing Search Assistance	BH-3900.3100	3	0
5.	Supportive Housing	BH-8400	2	1
6.	Veteran Homes	BH-8400.9000	2	1
7.	Furniture	BM-3000.2000	2	0
8.	Debt Management	DD-5000.1800	1	0
9.	Personal Finances/Budget Counseling	DD-5000.6500	1	0
10.	Military Records	DF-7000.5200	1	0
11.	Child Custody/Visitation Petition Filing Offices	FJ-1600.1500	1	0
12.	Child Support Assistance/Enforcement	FT-3000.1600	1	0
13.	Public Schools	HD-8000	1	0
14.	Food Stamps	NL-6000.2000	2	0
15.	Case/Care Management	PH-1000	10	2