



Dream Homes Community Center

To: Mayor Mark Boughton and the City Council

From: Sharice Coleman, Homeless & Housing Advocate

Re: December, 2013 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 numbers of people served throughout Danbury continues to increase. Through our Coordinated Access Services, Dream Homes Community Center has served 368 people in the city of Danbury alone since July 1, 2013.

Point of Entry

Since July 1, 2013, DHCC has provided services to 544 people (70 individuals and 131 couples and families) 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-December 2013
Danbury	592	590	368
Bethel	26	62	31
Brookfield	33	14	8
New Fairfield	34	22	4
New Milford	77	68	34
Newtown	4	16	16
Redding	7	0	0
Ridgefield	8	5	11
Sherman	2	1	4
Other Towns	45	58	68
Total	828	836	544

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

- Housing Advocate Sharice Coleman attended the "Revolving Door" meeting at the City Center. Representatives from different agencies in the city of Danbury met to discuss how to address homelessness in Downtown Danbury.
- ARC's Executive Director, Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold, and DHCC Housing Advocate Sharice Coleman attended the monthly Danbury Housing Partnership meeting. DHP discussed updates on the RFP for a consultant to lead a study on chronic homelessness. Next step is for the review committee to review the RFP's in January. The financial results of the DHP Breakfast were also discussed, very successful and ended on time! Project Homeless Connect was also highlighted as an achievement for this month.
- Housing Advocate Sharice Coleman attended the Project Homeless Connect meeting. Members met at WCSU for a walk through of the gym to discuss the set up of the event.
- ARC's Executive Director, Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold, and DHCC Housing Advocates Sharice Coleman and Heather Ely attended the Annual Project Homeless Connect event. The Advocates managed an information booth. All staff were able to network with other agencies in the community as well as provide information to the homeless population and other agencies.
- Housing Advocates Sharice Coleman and Heather Ely continue to meet once a week at Dorothy Day to perform homeless outreach for ARC.
- Housing Advocates Sharice Coleman and Heather Ely attended bi-weekly Case Management meetings at Catholic Charities. Case Managers from different organizations in the community came together to discuss client issues, referral issues and process and different ways to continue the efforts of ending homelessness.
- Housing Advocates Sharice Coleman and Heather Ely attended the Monthly Balance of State meeting for the HUD Grants. Housing Advocates were updated on the changes that HUD is requiring and other matters that agencies should look out for in the upcoming months.
- Housing Advocate Sharice Coleman attended a follow up Project Homeless Connect Meeting. Updates on the Annual Event were presented along with statistics of the population served during the event. Committee members also discussed things that the committee would like to see changed for next year's event.

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

A Point of Entry and Coordinated Access Success Story

Richard and Crystal were referred to ARC by the AIDS Project. Richard had been released from prison and was staying at a shelter in Danbury and Crystal had been doubled up with a friend for a couple of months. The couple had been working with a case manager from AIDS Project to find housing and were having a difficult time.

Since Richard was released from prison he wasn't working and Crystal, his wife, was working two jobs trying to save money to afford housing. Richard came to ARC requesting housing and financial assistance. ARC's Housing Advocate met with Richard and Crystal and reviewed their current income. Housing Advocate quickly determined that even with Crystal working two jobs, Richard would need to find employment in order to secure housing. Housing Advocate along with the AIDS Project worked closely with Richard in searching for jobs and filling out job applications.

Within two weeks of Richard and his wife coming to ARC, Richard was able to gain two part time jobs with a third is in the process. With Richard gaining two part time jobs and Crystal working a full time and a part time job, the couple would be able to sustain housing. DHCC Housing Advocates worked closely with the couple to establish an affordable rent that would not be a strain on their finances. Through a collaborative effort, AID's Project and ARC's Housing Advocate began to assist Richard and Crystal in their search for housing.

An affordable apartment for Richard and Crystal was located, just before the holiday. DHCC Housing Advocate met with the potential landlord and performed a housing inspection to ensure housing was adequate for the couple. Housing Advocate was able to secure a partial payment toward a Security Deposit and was able to arrange a payment agreement between the couple and the landlord to pay off the remaining balance of the Security Deposit over time. The AIDS Project was able to supply payment of the couples' first month's rent.

The couple has moved into their new home. They are working hard, and are happy to be back together and able to celebrate the holiday season in their new home.