



## Dream Homes Community Center

To: Mayor Mark Boughton and the City Council  
 From: Elke Sweeney, LCSW, Housing Advocate  
 Re: August 2016 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.

#### *Program Updates*

Dream Homes Community Center continues to persevere in the efforts to assist Danbury’s “Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness”. Through our Coordinated Access Services, Dream Homes Community Center has served **82 people** in the city of Danbury alone since July 1, 2016.

#### *Point of Entry*

Since July 1, 2016, DHCC has provided services to **148 people** through the Point of Entry at ARC. The following is a breakdown by town:

<b>Town</b>	<b>This Month (Aug. 1- Aug.30, 2016)</b>	<b>Year to Date (July 1, 2015 – August 30, 2016)</b>
Danbury	52 (13 households)	82
Bethel	9 (2 households)	13
Brookfield	0	0
New Fairfield	4 (1 household)	4
New Milford	23 (5 households)	29
Newtown	0	0
Redding	0	0
Ridgefield	0	0
Sherman	0	0
Other Towns	2 (1 households)	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>90 (22 households)</b>	<b>148 ppl</b>

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**August 2016 Outreach Highlights:** Dream Homes Housing Advocates attended the following meetings and trainings:

1. Met with *landlords* & performed inspections for clients' potential homes.
  2. *Continuum of Care (COC)* meeting to discuss prioritization of **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Vouchers** to be used for housing chronically homeless individuals with a disability in Danbury.
  3. *Housing First Collaborative* to discuss how clients' chronicity of homelessness and VI-SPDAT scores will be used to select individuals for PSH and learn about program model designed to support newly housed clients.
  4. *Housing Placement Committee (HPC)* to collaborate with other housing providers in order to determine which clients will receive the PSH Vouchers.
  5. Statewide *Coordinated Access Network* to collaborate with providers from other counties on service models to best fit client needs.
  6. *Housing sub-committee* for the **Danbury Housing Partnership** assisting with creating and seeking housing for population served.
  
  7. *Opening Doors of Fairfield County (ODFC)* Key community partners within Opening Doors, meets monthly. ODFC organizes specific deadlines to end homelessness in the Fairfield County area for veterans, families with children and youth, and people who are chronically homeless.
- II. Because of the **City Grant**, the Point of Entry was able to leverage and renew additional funds to help end and prevent homelessness, including:
1. *Homeless Educational Grants*: Provides costs toward tuition, child care, school supplies, transportation, and/or uniforms while participants are attending school. Clients must meet HUD's definition of homelessness or have proof of homelessness within the last 18 months. Case management is provided for 3 months to implement budgeting & financial planning.
  2. *Vouchers 1*: Provides rent for chronically homeless, one of which has one member of the household with a disability.
  3. *Vouchers 2*: Provides rent for veterans who were chronically homeless & one of which the majority of rent is paid for a family with a veteran who was chronically homeless per DMHAS contract.

III. **Program Highlights**—Story of one individual served by DHCC this month  
A Point of Entry and Coordinated Access Success Story  
(Names changed to maintain confidentiality)

Nancy and her 4-year old daughter, Sarah were connected to ARC through 211's **Coordinated Access Program**. Nancy was at imminent risk of homelessness and in process of being evicted from by Landlord. Nancy came to ARC to seek *assistance with housing, and accessing social service programs*. ARC's *Housing Advocate* met with Nancy to provide an intake to receive case-management and housing referral assistance. Although Nancy is a recipient of Danbury Housing Authority's Section 8 Voucher, she still needed assistance with budget coaching, and apartment connection. ARC's *Housing Advocate* also assisted Nancy in applying for services at CAAWC, and DSS for SNAP assistance.

ARC's *Housing Advocate* served as *a guide and support* in finding *safe, secure, and sanitary housing*, and *connected* Nancy to an apartment on Shelter Rock Road in Danbury. Nancy was *rent ready*, and able to move in within 1 month of her *housing assessment* at ARC.

ARC's *Housing Advocate* met with Nancy and her landlord and conducted an *inspection* to ensure the *safety and security* of the apartment. ARC assisted with the *Security Deposit*. On the day of move-in, ARC reviewed **Tenant's Rights/Responsibilities**.

ARC's *Housing Advocate* set-up a *care plan* for Nancy's *housing and case-management* needs. ARC's *Housing Advocate* also served as a *referral source* by connecting Nancy to CAAWC for energy assistance.

Nancy and her 4-year old daughter Sarah, are grateful for the *support, assistance, and advocacy* ARC provided. They were also provided with a **Welcome Basket** which includes bathroom and kitchen items (valued at \$125). Nancy is looking forward to continued support and *case management* from ARC.