



CITY OF DANBURY

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DANBURY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP
Mark J. Nolan, Chairman

PRESS RELEASE

Five Regional Banks, One Common Goal: Support Danbury Housing Partnership's Efforts to Assist Community Residents

In the banking business, competition is fierce. But five area banks will set competition aside on October 7th with a common goal to help the Danbury Housing Partnership raise money in its fight against the changing face of homelessness. Traditionally viewed as an issue reserved for the mentally ill or drug addicted, more people over the last two years are homeless or at risk of being homeless as the result of an economy that is slow moving toward recovery.

Complex problems require heavy lifting. To that end, **Fairfield County Bank**, **Newtown Savings Bank**, **Savings Bank of Danbury**, **Union Savings Bank**, and **Webster Bank** have signed on as corporate sponsors for **Danbury Housing Partnership's Community Breakfast** which will be held on **October 7, 2010** from 7:30 to 9:00 am at the Amber Room located on Stacey Road in Danbury.

The breakfast is the premier event dedicated to raising financial support for enhancing the lives of individuals and families of our region by increasing the public awareness of supportive housing and encouraging the creation of affordable housing opportunities in the Housatonic Valley. Our region has demonstrated proven success in family stabilization, decreasing homelessness among our veterans, increased productivity of our workforce, and providing a more efficient service delivery model to those persons and families in need.

However, in these difficult economic times housing has emerged as a crucial determinant of our region's social and economic health. The provision of a range of housing options is essential to maintaining the diverse workforce necessary to support a strong local economy.

In this new age – where people who never dreamed of facing housing problems are confronted with the fear of losing their livelihood and shelter – it is the private, public and non-profit sectors who have pooled resources to address the needs of our residents.

Last year more than 260 people attended the breakfast and more are expected this year. A highlight of the event will be the presentation of the **Danbury Housing Partnership Awards** honoring individuals, groups and businesses for their work in providing housing opportunities and supportive services for area residents.

The keynote speaker this year will be Diane Randall, President of Connecticut Partnership for Strong Communities. Mayor Mark Boughton will present awards for Community Partnership, Supportive Services,

and Business Partnership to Housing Authority of the City of Danbury, Catholic Charities Homeless Outreach Team, and Walsh Catering Inc., respectively (see below for award details).

The breakfast will also promote the 4th annual Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event that brings more than 40 social service agencies to one location in an effort to streamline access to services for the homeless or those at risk of homelessness.

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Community Partnership Award

Presented to the *Housing Authority of the City of Danbury* for its efforts to restore the Authority to sound financial condition; revitalize the administration of the organization; initiate physical upgrades to Authority properties and improve senior housing through a successful Federalization application. The Partnership also notes the Authority's partnership with the City of Danbury to initiate the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to provide new housing affordable units in Danbury. The Authority has also played a major role in Danbury's efforts to provide housing for Veterans through its contributions to the Vet House project and the administration of VASH vouchers allowing Veterans access to affordable rental units.

Supportive Services Award

Presented to *Catholic Charities Homeless Outreach Team* for its efforts to partner with the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to establish the Homeless Outreach Team as an essential component of the region's efforts to address homelessness. The team is led by Director of Homeless Services **Michele Conderino** and includes outreach workers **Awilda Perez** and **Barbara Hall**.

Business Partnership Award

Presented to *Walsh Catering* for Chef Patrick Walsh's unselfish efforts to give back to the community by volunteering to provide both hot breakfast and lunch service at the annual **Danbury Project Homeless Connect** event held every December. Chef Walsh's efforts have included the donation of the time of his employees to staff the event and have represented a significant financial sacrifice on his part.

THE DANBURY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP is a group of local experts on housing and social issues charged by Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton with the task of creating housing opportunities for families, veterans, seniors and persons with special needs. The Partnership also oversees implementation of Danbury's *Ten Year Plan To End Homelessness*. The Partnership is chaired by Mark J. Nolan, Partner of Nolan Enterprises. M. Carolyn Sistrunk, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Danbury serves as vice-chair.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT (PHC) Danbury Project Homeless Connect is organized by the Greater Danbury Continuum of Care in collaboration with WestConn and the Danbury Housing Partnership. The event brings together more than forty area housing agencies and service providers along with community volunteers to provide an array of assistance to persons who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Danbury joins with communities throughout the country implementing Project Homeless Connect events as part of a nationwide effort to address homelessness coordinated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.