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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Fourth Annual Danbury Project Homeless Connect to Convene More than
40 Human Services Agencies on One Day in One Place**

Will Provide Dozens of Services to Homeless and Those at Risk of Becoming Homeless

DANBURY, CT (December 2, 2010) – The 4th annual *Danbury Project Homeless Connect*, a one-day, community-wide event to deliver services for people who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, will take place on Friday, December 10th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Bill Williams Gymnasium, Midtown Campus, Western Connecticut State University (on the corner of Osborne Street and Dr. James R. Roach Way). A welcoming ceremony will take place at 11:30 am.

More than 40 human services agencies from around greater Danbury will participate in the event, offering services such as medical referrals, flu shots, and vision care. Services will also include counseling on housing, employment, legal issues, education, veterans' services, benefits, mental health, and much more.

The event is being planned through the greater Danbury Continuum of Care in conjunction with the City of Danbury's Housing Partnership (DHP). Milena Sangut, Director of Housing and Homeless Services of the Western Connecticut Mental Health Network is heading it up. "Once again, the response from our local human services agencies and businesses has been strong," said Ms. Sangut. "We're looking forward to having so many of these services in one place for a day. And this year in particular, we anticipate having more people in need of services – many who may have never had to rely on social service organizations."

Last year's Project Homeless Connect included more than 40 agencies providing a wide variety of services, over 60 volunteers assisting for the day, and 40 organizations and individuals who contributed funding, goods or services to run the event. More than 200 people were linked with services, housing or other assistance.

Sponsors this year include Western Connecticut State University, Walsh Catering, Danbury Housing Partnership and United Way of Western Connecticut. Major Contributing Sponsors include Housing Authority of the City of Danbury, Fairfield County Bank, Newtown Savings Bank, Savings Bank of Danbury, Sikorsky Financial Credit Union, Union Savings Bank, and Webster Bank.

The December 10th event will continue to focus on a goal set forth in Mayor Boughton's 10-year plan to end homelessness. The Danbury Housing Partnership, a group appointed by the Mayor to move the plan forward, has again demonstrated strong support. "We are serving not only those who are *now* homeless but also more and more people who never dreamed of facing housing problems – who are confronted with the fear of losing their livelihood and shelter," said Mark Nolan, Co-chair of the Danbury Housing Partnership. "It is the private, public and non-profit sectors who have pooled resources to address the needs of our residents."

The Danbury Project Homeless Connect Planning Workgroup would welcome contributions of funding or goods and services from businesses, organizations or individuals.

To donate clothing and item contributions to Project Homeless Connect:

Contact Sherri Neptune at Sherri.Neptune@po.state.ct.us

Items in need include food, coats, socks, gloves, phone cards and other items to be provided for our guests.

To make a financial contribution:

Make checks payable to the Danbury Housing Partnership, and send to c/o City of Danbury Health and Housing Department 155 Deer Hill Ave. Danbury, CT 06810.

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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.

THE GREATER DANBURY CONTINUUM OF CARE is a collaborative group made of key people from the area's social and community service agencies whose purpose is to conduct community wide planning for homeless services and assess gaps and needs. The Continuum is co-chaired by Milena Sangut, Director of Housing and Homeless Services of the Greater Western Connecticut Mental Health Network.

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.