



BRIDGEPORT  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
TRUST

December 2011 Newsletter



## Season's Greetings!

*Happy Holidays and Best Wishes  
for a healthy and prosperous  
2012!*

*Warm Regards,  
From all of us at BNT*



## House Party

Buy a Brick, Build-A-Home Fundraiser

On Tuesday September 22, over 100 guests joined BNT in getting their first look at Connecticut's premier Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) house located at 128 Holly Street. Community members, local leaders and corporate sponsors gathered for the Buy-A-Brick, Build-A-Home (BABBAH) fundraiser raising over \$24,000 to support the BNT mission. Guests got exclusive tours from the home's designer, Donald Watson and architect, Regina Winters. Representatives from Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Himes' offices attended, as did Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch, who addressed to the gathered crowd. BNT Chairman of the Board, Luis Sanchez roused the visitors with a hysterical speech as they enjoyed gourmet pizza from a green antique mobile pizza kitchen.

The fun did not stop there, as guests played games and danced to the music provided by Bridgeport's ProSoundProviders. Most guests won prizes contributed by local restaurants and retailers and BNT. Happiest of them all was Bina Williams from the Bridgeport Public Library who won the iPad 2! Again we want to thank our sponsors, Citizen's Bank, People's United Bank, United Illuminating/Southern CT Gas, TLC Services LLC, Earthrise, Daley Construction, Diversified Property Management, and Environmental Management Geological Consultants.



*More pictures at [bntweb.org/affordable\\_housing/babbah.php](http://bntweb.org/affordable_housing/babbah.php)*

The house is a model for future green homes, demonstrating cost effective and replicable construction practices. The home conserves energy and water, reduces harmful green house gas emissions and decreases waste sent to landfills.

If interested in purchasing this home for only \$199,000 and host a house party of your own contact Beverly Hoppie at (203) 332-7997 x 308.

To view a video of the LEED House, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bSfPPTmnbM>

## Healthy Homes

National Lead Prevention Week  
October 23 – 29, 2011



As part of the theme, "Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future," BNT along with the City of Bridgeport, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, participated in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

On October 29, BNT, along with Optimus Health Care sponsored the Healthy Homes Fair at Hall Neighborhood house. In addition to food, games and giveaways, volunteers provided free lead, blood pressure and glucose level screenings. Families also learned about household hazards that trigger asthma and lead poison such as lead paint, mold, roaches, dust mites, pests, and tobacco smoke in their homes.

BNT was also on hand at the Burroughs & Saden Library Halloween Parade on October 19, to educate and raise awareness about the importance of testing homes and children and teaching how to prevent lead poisoning's serious health effects.

## In the Community

State Historic Tax Credit Training

In partnership with the State DECD Historic Preservation office and the South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, BNT sponsored a training on the State Historic Tax Credit available to historic homeowners in Bridgeport. State Preservation Officer Mary Dunne enthusiastically educated 25 Bridgeport homeowners on the opportunity, as very few applications from Bridgeport are submitted each year.



### Meet our New Staff

Our new Housing Counselor Assistant, Samantha Santos joins BNT through Public Allies Connecticut, a leadership development program for young people interested in the nonprofit sector, Samantha provides support for the Housing Counseling Program. A Bridgeport native and a University of Connecticut graduate, Samantha is currently pursuing her certification in Homeownership Counseling.



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**Healthy Homes Initiative Receives  
\$25,000 from the EPA**

In July, BNT was awarded its first \$25,000 federal grant by the Environmental Protection Agency going into effect on January 1. The grant will allow the Healthy Homes Initiative to focus the outreach and education on the Eastside neighborhood. "We decided to target that specific neighborhood because it has the highest cases of lead poison and asthma rates in children under the age of 6. We thought, 'let's start with the area that needs it most and work from there,'" said BNT Program Director Tammy Talton.

The Healthy Homes Initiative will partner with local outreach, education and training, along with performing healthy homes interventions with funded provided by the Bridgeport Lead Free Families Program.

"Through education and training we hope to introduce to disadvantaged families the concept of maintaining a healthy home," Talton said.

**Homeownership Counseling**

**Connecticut Housing Finance Authority  
Contract**

On October 1, BNT entered into a 3 year contract with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to deliver monthly eight hour First-time Homebuyer Classes and to deliver individual financial counseling to first time homebuyers.

**Connecticut Association for Human Services**

BNT is proud to collaborate with the Connecticut Association for Human Services' (CAHS) CT Money School, which provides free financial education to adults and seniors Statewide. The CT Money School refers clients interested in purchasing a home to BNT by listing its class schedules and workshop information on their website and through email promotions. In addition, CAHS partnered with BNT to deliver a workshop for financial literacy to Spanish-speaking clients. 4 more of these workshops are scheduled next year.

**Affordable Housing Development**

Bridgeport Hospital Donates Lead Safe House to BNT



In September, BNT received a very generous donation from Bridgeport Hospital - Fairfield County's first and only lead-safe house.

The two-story, four-unit house, located at 27-29 Bell Street, was purchased by the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation in 1995 for \$80,000. Assisted by private contributions and state and municipal grants, the Foundation invested an additional \$367,000 in renovations to the house. Since then, it has been used as a temporary residence for families with children undergoing treatment for lead poisoning caused by lead-based paint in their own homes.

Under the non-monetary transfer agreement, at least one unit in the house will be maintained as a lead-safe residence and the other units will be used to support the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust's affordable housing mission.

"Bridgeport Hospital is pleased to be able to support the affordable housing needs of the community, while ensuring that a temporary lead-safe dwelling near the hospital continues to be available to families who need it," said Bridgeport Hospital President and CEO William M. Jennings.



"It's a win-win situation for families affected by lead contamination, those who need affordable housing and Bridgeport Hospital," says Bridgeport Director of Health and Human Services Kristin DuBay Horton, who was instrumental in engineering the transfer of the Bell Street house.

**Pequonnock Replacement Program Nears Completion**



After over a decade of development, the final phase of the Pequonnock Replacement Program is nearly complete.

"This is a huge accomplishment for the City of Bridgeport. This much needed housing will be provided to families from the public housing waitlist," said BNT Executive Director Elizabeth Torres. "It has been a long time coming."

In 2000, the demolition of the aging Pequonnock Apartments left Bridgeport in need of affordable housing. In 2002, the City of Bridgeport named BNT as the sole developer of 60 public housing units across 23 properties. The final phase of the project was the renovation of four units on Maplewood Ave and six units on Brook Street. The units will transfer to the Bridgeport Housing Authority at the end of 2011.

"Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust's work was invaluable in helping the City complete the Pequonnock Replacement Project. This project was a priority for me, and by working together with BNT and the Bridgeport Housing Authority we were able to provide new homes for those residents who had been displaced," said Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch.

