



BRIDGEPORT
NEIGHBORHOOD
TRUST

July 2011 Newsletter

Building Green

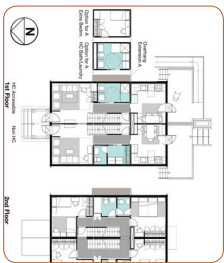
BNT Constructs Connecticut's First LEED House

BNT is proud to be developing Connecticut's first LEED "green" affordable homes located on Holly Street in the East End of Bridgeport. These model homes will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. In keeping with the green building design framework developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, the homes will conserve energy and water, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and decrease waste sent to landfills. In addition to the environmental benefits, the homes will be affordable, with lower operating costs and increased value compared to traditional homes.

This innovative construction project was funded by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, City of Bridgeport HOME, Seaview Avenue Business Association, LISC, and Community Capital Fund.

Each duplex will be sold for \$225,000 to first-time homebuyers and comes attached with a two-bedroom rental apartment. The rental income from the attached unit will make the property affordable for low-income homeowners, by providing a built-in source of additional revenue. The homebuyer will be randomly selected through a lottery drawing.

For more information, call 203-332-7977 or visit our website: http://bntweb.org/affordable_housing/bnt_properties_for_sale.html



BNT's 2010 Annual Report Ready for Viewing

Go to http://www.bntweb.org/about/annual_report/2010_annual_report.pdf

BNT is an Award Winning Organization

Supportive Housing Award, Partnership for Strong Communities and Reaching Home Campaign



On Thursday June 9, 2011, the Partnership for Strong Communities and Reaching Home presented the sixth annual Reaching Home Supportive Housing Celebration Dinner. Liz Torres

was among the honorees and received the 2011 Reaching Home Supportive Housing Award for advancing solutions to end homelessness, creating affordable housing, and building healthy and economically vital communities.

Above & Beyond Award, Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP)



Annually, RYASAP gives an "Above and Beyond" award to volunteers and one organization for their dedicated services to their communities and neighborhoods. On June 14, 2011, BNT was recognized as such an organization for its efforts to improve the quality of life of low income families in Bridgeport.

Meet our New Staff

Nancy Jean, Housing Counselor



Our new Housing Counselor, Nancy Jean, will provide training in pre-purchase, post purchase, and loss mitigation counseling to guide and educate low income families on achieving homeownership and keeping it.



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Homeownership Counseling Program

Achieving Homeownership

BNT has enrolled 223 clients in its program, 18 clients closed on a total of \$2,573,303 in mortgages with an additional 50 under contract to purchase or pre-approved for a total of \$5,691,017. In addition there are 32 "mortgage ready" BNT clients (including referrals from lenders), identified as clients who are ready to purchase within the next 1-6 months.

Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistant Program

Thanks to BNT's role as an administrator of the City of Bridgeport's Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program (DAP), first time homebuyers are achieving homeownership. With 4 properties closed, 4 approved pending closing, and an additional 5 clients under contract, a total of 13 clients were assisted. BNT has expended all the funds made available this program.

Healthy Homes

City of Bridgeport Receives Third Lead Free Families Grant

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has called lead paint the number one environmental threat to the health of children in the United States. To combat this problem in Bridgeport, the City of Bridgeport Central Grants and Community Development was successful in securing its third 3 year commitment from HUD. Working collaboratively with the City, BNT will manage \$2 million to create 210 lead safe apartments, 100 healthy homes interventions, and provide outreach and education.

Affordable Housing Development

BNT currently has 30 apartments in construction scattered throughout Bridgeport. 10 are part of the Pequonnock Replacement Program and are near completion. 12 are located on Lafayette Street, 6 on Columbia Court and 2 on Holly Street. All these buildings are slated for completion by the end of the year.

South End Community Initiative



Villas Victoria



BNT has initiated a comprehensive strategy beginning with acquisition and financing of several parcels on Columbia Street/Columbia Court in the South End of Bridgeport. This block by block plan of action will result in community development investment which will revitalize and restore properties and provide much needed safe affordable housing. Currently, BNT has control of 7 vacant lots and 3 buildings totaling 16 apartments, 6 of which are currently being renovated.

Save the Date:

Buy-A-Brick, Build-A-Home Benefit

It's a house party! - BNT's 2nd Annual Buy-A-Brick, Build-A-Home (BABBAH) benefit.

When: Thursday September 22nd

Where: 128 Holly Street, Bridgeport, CT

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00

Come and enjoy fine food, entertainment, tour the home, and watch the "American Dream" come true as an eligible family, chosen by lottery receives the news that they are the new homeowner.

For more information, visit our website at www.bntweb.org or Takeia McAlister at babbah@bntweb.org.

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