



**Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust acquires lead-safe house
from Bridgeport Hospital**
***Transfer will maintain temporary shelter for families affected by lead
contamination and provide additional affordable housing for others***

BRIDGEPORT, CT (Sept. 8, 2011) – Bridgeport Hospital donated Fairfield County’s first and only lead-safe house to the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, a nonprofit that assists local families in finding affordable housing.

The lead-safe house, located on 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 two-story, four-unit house. 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.

In recent years, there has been a reduced need for all four units in the house and maintenance costs have been high, which has diverted Foundation funds from supporting other patient care needs at the hospital.

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,” says Bridgeport Hospital President and CEO William M. Jennings.

“Bridgeport Hospital has once again shown its commitment to the well-being of Bridgeport residents, beyond its core mission of providing high-quality healthcare services,” adds Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch. “The City is grateful for the hospital’s contributions to making Bridgeport a better, healthier place for all.”

“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.

“We are the City’s only community housing development organization developing affordable housing providing homeownership counseling to low income families and participating in lead remediation. Since 2004 we’ve been working in partnership with the City and have been managing millions of federal dollars to make Bridgeport a healthier city. We’ve completed about 450 lead safe units and trained more than 100 individuals interested in being certified in lead remediation. We also educate thousands of families in lead poisoning and prevention,” says Elizabeth Torres, Executive Director of Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust.