



Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust receives funding to design new system to accommodate organization's growth.

Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust (BNT) Executive Director, Elizabeth Torres announced recently that it received its 2nd grant in the amount of for \$5,000 from the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF) to support the second year of its financial management capacity building project.

Over the past six years, BNT has experienced enormous organizational growth. In 2005, Elizabeth Torres was the BNT's only full-time employee and the organization was focused solely on housing development. Today, BNT has grown to a staff of 8 and is serving hundreds of families annually through its healthy homes and comprehensive homeownership counseling programs. The organization's assets have also grown exponentially during this time, with a 2011 operating budget of less than 1 million dollars and a new financial system is being designed to accommodate the organization's growth.

The dollars from FCCF will be used to support the second phase of BNT's financial management capacity building project. The board of directors and senior staff will develop an operating reserve policy, create a written accounting manual which lays out BNT's financial management procedures and better link BNT's program and property management to its financial reports.

By investing in a stronger financial management system, BNT senior staff and board will have improved reports that can be used as planning tools to sustain the organization for years to come and demonstrate financial management capacity to funders and partners.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$120 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.