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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BNT TO HOST HOUSE PARTY TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF CONNECTICUT'S FIRST LEED CERTIFIED HOME



Bridgeport, CT (June 22, 2011) – On Holly Street in Bridgeport, Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, Inc. (BNT) will host an evening of music, food and fun at the site of Connecticut's premier Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) multi-family home. At the event, one lucky family will receive the news that they are to be the new homeowner and landlord of this environmentally friendly home. The party, complete with a guided tour of the house, will take place on Thursday Sept. 22nd from 5:30pm – 8pm.

In its second year, the *Buy-A-Brick, Build-A-Home* (BABBAH) event is expected to host more than 200 people, including corporate sponsors like Build-A-Home Sponsor, Citizen's Bank, and community leaders who will be the first to view the duplex located on Holly Street. Ticket's to the event are just \$50 and all proceeds will help support BNT's mission to strengthen communities by developing affordable housing, creating healthy homes and providing comprehensive homeownership counseling..

Understanding Bridgeport's affordable housing crisis and the importance of collaboration to create neighborhoods of choice where families want to live, work and establish family roots, BNT is proud to be developing Connecticut's first green affordable homes. While two of these LEED homes will be constructed, one of them will be completed in time for the benefit. "We are thrilled to be providing safe and affordable housing opportunities for families that need it most", said BNT Executive Director Elizabeth Torres. "We hope the community will come out and join us in celebrating this green affordable home and all the work that we're doing to help Bridgeport thrive."

These new duplexes, will serve as a model for future green homes and will demonstrate cost effective and replicable construction practices. The homes will conserve energy and water, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and decrease waste sent to landfills. Compared to their less environmentally-friendly counterparts, they will have lower operating costs and increased asset value. When complete, these green homes will be sold to families that earn less than 80% of the area median income, \$64,200.

BNT's mission is to strengthen communities by embracing a comprehensive revitalization approach through advocacy, education, investment, and technical support. BNT has been working in Bridgeport for nearly twenty-five years, understanding firsthand the needs of the city and the importance of collaboration to create neighborhoods of choice where families want to live, work and invest.

For more information on the event or about how to be a sponsor, please contact Takeia McAlister at (203) 249-5355 or at takeia@mac.com.

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