

Contact:

Takeia McAlister, BABBAH Project Director

Tel. (203) 249-5355

babbah@bntweb.org

Elizabeth Torres, Executive Director

Elizabeth@bntweb.org

Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust (BNT)

240 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport CT 06604

Tel. (203) 332 7977 / Fax (203)

<http://www.bntweb.org>



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ONE LUCKY FAMILY TO WIN LOTTERY FOR  
CONNECTICUT'S FIRST LEED CERTIFIED AFFORDABLE HOME**



Bridgeport, CT (June 24, 2011) – Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust (BNT) is offering to Connecticut residents an affordable and “green” homeownership opportunity in the City of Bridgeport by way of a lottery. Sold to a first-time homebuyer, this two family environmentally friendly duplex home on Holly Street will be purchased by a family who meets the guidelines of earning less than \$64,200 annually and who is yearning to finally realize the American Dream. This home will be sold for \$225,000 and comes attached with a two-bedroom rental apartment. The rental income from the attached unit will make the property that much more affordable, by providing a built-in source of additional revenue.

This new duplex will serve as a model for future green homes and will demonstrate cost effective and replicable construction practices, 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 utility costs by almost \$2,000 per year.

Interested applicants must be income eligible, complete homebuyer education counseling by an approved homeownership counseling agency, and be pre-approved for a mortgage. In addition, he/she must intend to occupy the property as their principal residence.

“Understanding that buying a home may be a daunting task, BNT provides affordable homeownership opportunities and support to first time homeowners in making homeownership a reality and more importantly keeping it,” said Elizabeth Torres BNT’s Executive Director.

To announce the winner of the lottery and showcase the model home to the community, BNT will host an evening of music, food and fun at the site of Connecticut’s premier Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) home. At the event, one lucky family will receive the news that they are to be the new homeowner and landlord. 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 event, *Buy-A-Brick, Build-A-Home* (BABBAH) is expected to host more than 200 people, including corporate sponsors like Build-A-Home sponsor, Citizens Bank, community leaders and community supporters, who will be the first to view the duplex located on Holly Street. Tickets 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.

BNT understands 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. 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's President Luis Sanchez. "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."

BNT's mission is to strengthen communities by embracing a comprehensive revitalization approach through advocacy, education, investment, and technical support.

If you or someone you know is interested in purchasing this home, please visit [www.bntweb.org](http://www.bntweb.org) or call Enid Tyson at 203-332-7977. For more information on how to be a sponsor for the event, or purchase tickets please contact Takeia McAlister at (203) 249-5355 or at [babbah@bntweb.org](mailto:babbah@bntweb.org).

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