



# CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

EST. 1871

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

WWW.NEWBRITAINCT.GOV

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 2, 2016

## **New Britain Eliminates Chronic Family Homelessness**

**NEW BRITAIN**—Mayor Erin E. Stewart announced today that chronic family homelessness in the city has been eliminated, while significant strides have also been made in reducing homelessness among individuals.

“This is a huge milestone for the city and is an indication that Building Hope Together is truly making a difference in the lives of those who are seeking stability,” said Mayor Stewart. “By creating partnerships through Building Hope Together and adopting a Housing First approach, we have made substantial progress in reducing homelessness and rebuilding lives.”

Dr. Carl Lovitt, co-chair of Building Hope Together, said: “Mayor Stewart’s Building Hope Together initiative demonstrates the power of partnerships to solve serious problems facing our city. With the support of employers, government agencies, social service providers, and educational institutions, Building Hope Together has not only ended chronic family homelessness but also helped the city’s homeless find jobs and taken steps to prevent homelessness in the future.”

Ellen Perkins Simpson, Executive Director of the Friendship Service Center, sits on the Executive and Housing Committees for Building Hope Together. “New Britain’s Permanent Work Plan to End Homelessness has been taken seriously in our City,” says Perkins Simpson, “and that seriousness has certainly paid off. We have ended chronic homelessness among families, a wonderful thing indeed. I want to congratulate the Mayor and all who have worked so diligently to reach this important milestone.”

The city is continuing to increase housing for homeless individuals and connect people with the services they need. In November, new housing for 18 veterans opened at 232 Arch St. under the operation of Veteran’s Inc.

Plans are also underway to build 11 efficiency and one-bed room apartments in a new, three-story building on North Street that will be known as the Howey House. The Friendship Service Center will operate the new facility, which will be funded by HUD Home money that was committed by the City of New Britain, a \$250,000 grant from the American Savings Foundation, and \$2.145 million grant from the Connecticut Department of Housing Assistance for Multifamily Properties.

The number of chronically homeless individuals in the seven towns of the Central Connecticut Coordinated Access Network has been reduced from 103 in December 2015 to 63 in July 2016; the number of families has been reduced to zero.

According to federal guidelines, a chronically homeless person is someone with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or an individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years that add up to at least 365 days.

Contact:

David Huck

860-826-3302

dhuck@newbritainct.gov