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Foundation honored for housing, community development partnership

By Bridgeport News Staff on October 5, 2013 in Features, News · 0 Comments

About author



Bridgeport News Staff

The Fairfield County Community Foundation has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in partnership with the Council on Foundations, as one of 10 recipients nationwide of the Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships.

The award honors philanthropic funders for their innovative public-philanthropic collaborations designed to address housing and community development challenges.

The foundation was recognized for its partnership-building work since 2009 through the Stable Families Program and P.T. Bamum Partnership Initiative in Bridgeport. The programs have formed collaborations with the Bridgeport Housing Authority, Connecticut Legal Services, New Haven Home Recovery, Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, Grace City LLC, Yale Consultation Center and the residents living in Bridgeport's public housing.

"FCCF and our partners are thrilled to be recognized for the work we have done to insure that public housing is a springboard for success," said Juanita T. James, president and chief executive officer of the Fairfield County Community Foundation. "A safe, stable neighborhood is an essential foundation to helping families succeed. The program's innovation lies in its conviction that public housing residents can be the drivers of positive, sustainable change in their community."

The Stable Families Program provides intensive case management and support services to 154 high risk families living in Bridgeport public housing. Services are aimed first at helping residents resolve issues that could lead to eviction and then to providing help to improve the health, stability and economic and educational success of these families.

Since 2009, 96% of families enrolled in the program have avoided eviction, gotten back on their feet financially and moved their lives forward.

HUD and the Council on Foundations developed the award to recognize philanthropic organizations for enhancing the quality of life for low- and moderate-income families. The projects addressed issues concerning housing and neighborhood improvements, education, health and recreation, transportation, arts and culture, public safety, sustainability and economic development. An expert panel selected the 10 winners.

"These awards provide us all a moment to reflect on the good work that foundations are doing to advance communities across the country," said Vikki Spruill, president and CEO of the Council on Foundations. "I am grateful to HUD and Secretary Donovan for recognizing the many different ways that foundations are thoughtfully responding to the needs of those around them."

"It's organizations like these that are doing the heavy lifting to improve neighborhoods, often without much thanks. said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "Today, we say 'thank you.' These foundations are teaming up with public and private partners to bring about positive change and lasting solutions that are making a real difference in their communities."

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