

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 30, 2013

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East Hartford Family Shelter Receives \$10K for Improvements

Ensworth Charitable Foundation Grant Provides New Mattresses, Clothes Dryer and Refrigerator

EAST HARTFORD— Community Renewal Team’s homeless shelter for families in East Hartford just got some big upgrades thanks to a one-year, \$10,000 grant from The Ensworth Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee. Much-needed replacement mattresses, an industrial-size clothes dryer and brand new refrigerator are all becoming a reality over the next year as a result of the funding.

The East Hartford Community Shelter is the only homeless shelter serving families—women and children—in addition to men in the towns surrounding the city of Hartford. The shelter is a safe haven in the region, providing emergency shelter, nutritious meals and comprehensive case management services to hundreds of families annually.

“This new funding helps us provide better living conditions and updated appliances for our individuals and families who come to us in a time of crisis,” said CRT’s Vice President of Housing and Community Services Christopher McCluskey. “It really underscores the impact these grants have in terms of investments in local communities that provide for people who fall on hard times.”

The total cost of shelter operations have increased steadily over the years since opening in 1995, and the supporting funding in recent years has not kept pace. CRT currently receives shelter funding from state and local sources; however, overall support has been cut significantly due to a variety of factors, including: the federal sequester, a struggling economy and dwindling availability of state dollars for homeless services.

The new grant allows for each of the 40 beds in the shelter to receive replacement mattresses. The industrial clothes dryer coming in is replacing the shelter's existing residential-size clothes dryer that cannot keep up with demand in laundering bedding, linens and towels. The existing refrigerator used by the residents to store food during their shelter stay was aging and in need of replacement, so the new one could not have come at a better time.

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The Ensworth Charitable Foundation was established in 1948 to support and promote educational, cultural, human services, religious, and health, art and cultural programs care programming for underserved populations. Grants are typically awarded for activities primarily conducted in Hartford and the contiguous neighboring communities.

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In its 50th anniversary year, Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut. The agency's mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families change their lives and create their own opportunities in becoming self-reliant while making sure basic needs are met. CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut. Visit the NEW www.crtct.org. CRT invites the community to celebrate 50 years of changing lives at the Hartford Marriott Downtown on May 15, 2013. Details on sponsorships and tickets available on the CRT website.