

## **STAMFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY – NEWS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

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### **VISIONARY HOPE VI SUPPORTIVE-HOUSING COMMUNITY IS A NATIONAL MODEL**

**Opening of Stamford's Post House Apartments a milestone in assisted-housing progress in America**

**STAMFORD, Conn., June 9, 2008** – At what may be the first supportive-housing community of its kind in the United States, City, State and community leaders join today to dedicate a striking new building that serves both as a testament to tenacity and hope, and a model for assisted housing that housing authorities and municipal planners across the country should be emulating.

Mayor Dannel P. Malloy, Congressman Christopher Shays, Lt. Governor Michael Fedele, and Senator Andrew McDonald join the Stamford Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, City leaders, residents and invited guests this morning at 10:30 AM for the dedication of the City's visionary new supportive-housing community, the HOPE VI Post House Apartments.

Post House Apartments include 10 public housing apartments and 50 apartments receiving project-based Section 8 rental subsidies. In addition to many special features and handicap accommodations, Post House includes on-site case managers, who have been working with local residents for several years to help them achieve stability, independence and self sufficiency. These case managers play an integral role in Stamford's efforts to support residents through personal counseling and an array of services dedicated to strengthening and dignifying this population that so often is ignored or stigmatized.

This attractive, six-story building at 40 Clinton Avenue is convenient to public transportation and

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## **Post House Dedication, 2/3**

downtown amenities, and has a large community meeting room, offices, conference rooms, and a computer training lab. It's been designed to “fit” comfortably within the surrounding neighborhood, as do all the new Stamford Housing Authority properties built over the past several years. The site occupies two-thirds of an acre, and the nicely groomed grounds are adorned with trees, flowers and benches. The building also features remote video security technology in each apartment for residents to view guests in the building foyer.

But this isn't just another new building built with federal assistance – Post House Apartments reflects an evolution in assisted-housing facilities in America, and Stamford is right at the forefront of this movement.

“Post House represents the best we can offer this community in terms of architectural excellence, safe, affordable housing, and a blend of attractive residential units and services that meet the diverse needs of our citizens,” said Richard D. Fox, executive director, Stamford Housing Authority. “This spectacular new building is cause enough to celebrate – but it denotes a far more significant milestone in the philosophical, social and financial evolution of assisted-housing in Stamford . . . and in America.”

According to Housing Authority Chairman of the Board, Courtney A. Nelthropp, today's dedication is a milestone in the assisted-housing community. “This occasion acknowledges how far this housing authority has come in reshaping what was formerly known as 'public housing' in our City,” said Nelthropp. “Our work has changed the way residents, the community, our financial supporters and government view us – we now are in the business of building communities.”

**As part of that ongoing evolution, Nelthropp said the Board also is announcing a new name for the Stamford Housing Authority that better reflects its current services and programs.** Going forward, the Authority will use the new name *Charter Oak Communities* for its property-management relationships, development efforts and day-to-day business.

## **How HOPE VI -- and Stamford – are changing the face of U.S. public housing**

Stamford suffers from a chronic lack of housing that is affordable for low- and moderate-income households, and it has been recognized by the National Low Income Housing Coalition as the most costly rental market in the nation. This puts enormous pressure on the city's affordable housing stock, and has led the Stamford Housing Authority – now Charter Oak Communities – to assume a leadership role in its development and preservation.

Charter Oak Communities has revitalized its two oldest complexes -- Southfield Village and Fairfield Court. It has also achieved passage in Connecticut of historic enabling legislation and obtained significant state bonding support to revitalize its portfolio of state-assisted public

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## **Post House Dedication, 3/3**

housing through HOPE VI public housing revitalization grants. These efforts have enabled Charter Oak Communities to create various development models that are uniquely suited to the needs of its residents and the region.

Modernization, close ties with community associations, a strong relationship with public safety and the supportive-housing services at Post House are examples of Charter Oak Communities' innovation, says Vincent Tufo, development director. "Our case managers coach residents to promote self sufficiency, offer coping strategies, provide life and career guidance, and see them through health, economic and family crises. We've created a road to stabilization and independence, which helps our residents and is an asset to the entire community."

The funding for this program, Tufo adds, comes from setting aside significant equity from low-income tax credits. It's just one of many creative funding and investment strategies, he explains, that have turned Stamford's housing programs into national models, while focusing on resident needs. "The program's four case managers have been working with this population since 2004. We're breaking every mold and changing the way residents – and the community – view public housing," Tufo says proudly. "We will continue strengthening neighborhoods and attracting owners and investors, but we're not the same Stamford Housing Authority we were decades ago."

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