

## Getting To Zero: Pacific House Is Leading the Way in Helping Connecticut Reach the Goal of Ending Chronic Homelessness by Year-End

There is a state-wide initiative to end chronic homelessness among individuals by the end of 2016, the next step after successfully ending chronic homelessness among CT veterans in 2015. HUD initiated a nationwide effort with the same goal.

There are approximately 30 chronically homeless individuals in the lower Fairfield County area, and Pacific House is committed to housing them all by year-end. To accomplish this, the organization is working together with other local nonprofit partner agencies, such as Laurel House, Inspirica, Charter Oak and New Neighborhood Inc.

Part of the equation of 'getting to zero' is the creation of an additional deeply affordable housing property owned and operated by Pacific House that will open later this year. The property, called 'Gateway,' will house a total of 16 tenants come December 1st.

"This property will open just in time for winter," said Rafael Pagan, Jr., Pacific House Executive Director. "To give you an idea of the demand for affordable housing in our area, we had 150 applicants for these 16 units."

Gateway represents the end of our Beacon II initiative, which will house a total of 33 individuals when this property opens. In moving forward, we anticipate breaking ground on two new properties by the end of the year, which will house upon completion another 17 individuals.

To assist with this housing initiative, HUD awarded Pacific House \$333,000 towards supportive services and rent subsidies, through 'Shelter Plus Care' vouchers supported by DMHAS for the Stamford area.

"As an agency, Pacific House is committed to housing all of the chronically homeless individuals in achieving zero by the end of this calendar year," said Pagan. "Our housing development projects are a major component in providing deeply affordable housing to the homeless community. We are confident that we will reach our goal of ending chronic homelessness by the end of this year."



Above: Gateway exterior. Below, Gateway interior, left to right: Kitchen, open concept living room and kitchen, and bedroom. Unique to the Gateway property, every bedroom has a bathroom.

