



BNT Announces Homebuyer Education Program for Stratford Residents

Three Different Orientation Sessions Scheduled for this October

For Immediate Release

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Stratford—Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust (BNT), an active, non-profit community housing development organization in the greater Bridgeport area, is announcing a new homebuyer education program for Stratford residents. BNT, which is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, has actually been serving Stratford residents for years – in the last three years alone they have served over 57 Stratford households. But now, thanks to the assistance of the Stratford Community Development Block Grant Program, BNT has for the first time received funding to specifically target Stratford residents and make its housing counseling programs readily accessible to them. Community Development Block Grant funding is made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

“We are particularly excited about being able to help fund BNT’s Homebuyer Education Workshops and their services for Stratford residents,” said Duncan Yetman, the Community Development Administrator in the Town’s Department of Community/Economic Development. “Funding this initiative helps us to address at the local level one of HUD’s Strategic Goals for

their programs nationally, which is to protect and educate consumers when they buy, refinance, or rent a home.”

BNT's program includes the following five steps:

1. Screening/Pre-Qualification. One-on-one intake session to identify steps to become ready for homeownership;
2. Review of Credit Report and Development of Action Plan;
3. Action Plan Assessment. Subsequent counseling sessions with clients will include review of the updated credit report and established household budget;
4. Pre-Purchase Class covering all aspects of buying a home and being a homeowner; and
5. Post-Closing Workshops. In an effort to increase the long-term success of homebuyers, BNT provides group education to families even after they've purchased their home. Topics include: financial literacy, predatory lending & foreclosure prevention, and landlord/tenant regulations.

Elizabeth Torres, BNT’s Executive Director states, "Our goal is to help low and moderate income families achieve homeownership in the Town of Stratford by providing group classes, workshops, and one on one counseling. We understand first hand the barriers to homeownership and will walk our clients through the entire process to ensure they are successful." BNT has already started providing workshops in Stratford. For more information, contact Lizabeth @ 203-332-7977 x 311. The attached flyer shows the date, time, and location of upcoming orientation sessions.

About Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust - BNT’s mission is to LEAD, EMPOWER and CHANGE Bridgeport neighborhoods, improving quality of life through affordable housing opportunities. To meet this challenge, BNT develops and manages affordable housing, creates healthy homes with a focus on lead remediation and provides comprehensive homeownership for low and moderate income families.

BNT was incorporated in 1986 and provides an array of services in the Bridgeport community. Over the past 8 years, BNT's results include the development of 95 new scattered site affordable housing units (61 are under management). Currently it has an additional 34 units in construction. With regards to its programs, BNT has created 700 lead safe apartments and helped 519 families achieve homeownership during this time period.

Homebuyer Education Program for STRATFORD RESIDENTS



What: FREE
Homebuyer Education
Workshops

Who: Anyone
interested in being a
First Time Homebuyer

WHERE: Town of
Stratford Community
Services
Birdseye Municipal
Complex
468 Birdseye St

Contact Lizbeth at BNT to Pre-
register; Walk Ins Welcome
203-332-7977

Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust
announces a NEW homebuyer
education program for Stratford Residents!

*Learn about the Homebuying Process from "A-Z", Mortgage
Financing Programs and Downpayment Assistance Options*

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

Tuesday, October 1st, 6:30pm—7:30pm
Tuesday, October 15th, 6:30pm—7:30pm
Tuesday, October 29th, 6:30pm—7:30pm
(choose one)

**** Parking in Rear of Building****

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