

National Communities of Quality Awards Competition Exemplary Development for the Elderly

Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury Danbury, CT

Residents of Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury say that no other senior housing can compare. Residents also say the apartments are not just their apartments but their home and that their neighbors are not just neighbors but they are family. Located at 88 Main Street in Danbury, CT, Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury is in the center of Danbury, Connecticut within walking distance of the Public Library, local Senior Center, religious facilities, a 24-hour pharmacy, a major grocery store chain, and restaurants of every cuisine you can think of; there is truly no place like it.

Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury was originally a convent for nuns of the Saint Peters Church here in Danbury, CT. Renovated to Affordable Senior Housing in 1998 by its owners, The Diocese of Bridgeport; BCH-Danbury recently celebrated its 13th anniversary. Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury is a HUD subsidized PRAC 202 property designed for seniors aged 62 years of age and older. Managed by WinnResidential, Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury has 30 spacious one bedroom apartments and 10 studio apartments. Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury offers seniors an affordable, clean, and safe place to spend the later years of their lives.

WinnResidential's philosophy of *ResidentsFirst* is reflected in everything our management and maintenance teams do on a daily basis at Bishop Curtis Homes - Danbury. Simply stated, this means that we make residents our First priority always. It is our goal to provide superior customer service and to promote and create a sense of community and goodwill. Whether the manager is staying late to sign a lease or a member of the maintenance team plans to come in on the weekend to help with a new move in, the staff at Bishop Curtis Homes - Danbury is committed and willing do whatever it takes to ensure everyone is happy.

What sets Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury apart from other senior housing is our constant goal to obtain partnerships within our community and state. Bishop Curtis Homes - Danbury partnered with Connecticut Light and Power's WRAP program to begin the process of "Going Green". After management submitted applications for each resident and funding was approved by the WRAP program, renovations began. Each resident received new energy efficient florescent overhead lighting fixtures in their kitchen and living rooms, new bathroom

light fixtures, a new water conserving handheld showerhead that has helped residents and their nurse's aides tremendously, two new table lamps, new aerators for the sink in the kitchen as well as the bathroom to conserve water use, and each resident was left with seven florescent light bulbs to replace their older lights in the future. The partnership continued when the WRAP program returned to seal windows and doors to help keep cold air out in the winter and to keep cool air in during the summer. With more help from the WRAP program, we were able to start our biggest energy saving endeavor thus far when we purchased 21 new energy saving refrigerators, which has greatly reduced our electric bills.

An ongoing partnership Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury has had since opening is one residents and management alike are very proud of, which is our partnership with the 8th grade class at the neighboring Saint Peter's School. Celebrating Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas with the students allows for the exchange of stories between the children and our residents, production of laughter, and even the shedding of a few tears. Over the years our residents have helped tutor the students in the academic arena, taught them the art of baking, and have even taught them a step or two they can use on the dance floor. This is one partnership that we all know will continue to benefit all for many years to come.

Although there currently is not a Residents Association, the residents of Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury have been putting on their own parties and programs since our opening. Typically greeted with a homemade cake and a few dozen welcome cards, new residents say the transition from living in a big house to a smaller apartment, which is typically very difficult, could not have been as easy if it wasn't for their neighbors. A new resident can enjoy resident sponsored Bingo on Wednesday nights, cards on Thursdays and Sunday nights, the observance of Rosary on Monday, and Holy Communion on Friday as well as many other programs our Resident Services coordinator offers. Our Resident Service Coordinator allows the residents of Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury to take pride in their independence by offering van trips every Thursday morning to some of the local grocery stores, and once a month our residents venture to the local mall, and large retail stores such as Target and Wal-Mart.

Above all, what sets Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury apart from all other senior housing communities are the people that live and work here. Bishop Curtis Homes – Danbury truly is a Community of

Quality!

