

For Immediate Release

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NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF NEW HAVEN TO HOST ITS LARGEST VOLUNTEER EVENT YET

***Over 100 Yale students will join NHS of New Haven's efforts to create an
Urban Oasis at Beaver Pond Park along Sherman Parkway.***

NEW HAVEN, CT – On Thursday, August 25, 2016, students from **Yale's FOCUS group** and volunteers from the **Yale Law School** will join Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven staff to work on an ongoing Urban Oasis project: restoring a park on the eastern side of Beaver Pond, along [Sherman Parkway](#). More than 100 volunteers will be on-site, making this the largest volunteer event hosted by NHS of New Haven in its 36+ year history.

The stretch of land on eastern side of Beaver Pond, along Sherman Parkway, spans about three tenths of a mile and volunteers will be focusing on watering trees, pulling weeds, laying down mulch, and building and maintaining trails that will circle the park.

Just a few years ago, the land was completely overgrown with invasive weeds, and a chain-link fence prevented neighborhood residents from accessing the pond. Since then, NHS of New Haven has been working with **Urban Resources Initiative** and **Common Ground** to plant a large number of trees and steadily transform the space. NHS is also working with the **Audubon Society** to plant pollinator plants, giving birds and insects much-needed food. **Friends of Beaver Ponds Park** has also been an incredible supporter and partner.

“It is wonderful to see so many New Haven organizations focused on creating Urban Oases around the city,” remarked **Stephen Cremin-Endes, Director of Community Building & Organizing at NHS of New Haven**. “The collaboration will create a positive impact both environmentally and socially around the city.”

NHS Executive Director Jim Paley adds: “Our organization prides itself on offering multiple volunteer events throughout the year. Everyone – from students to residents to organizations of various sizes -- benefits from the efforts of volunteers who help make New Haven's neighborhoods great.”

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven works to revitalize selected neighborhoods in New Haven by increasing homeownership; making homes beautiful, energy-efficient, and affordable; and helping residents take charge of their neighborhoods. We believe that increased homeownership, educated homebuyers, and rehabilitated houses will produce stable, revitalized neighborhoods that our clients will be proud to call home. www.nhsofnewhaven.org

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven is part of the national **NeighborWorks® Network**, an affiliation of more than 240 nonprofit organizations located in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In 2015, the Network helped nearly 356,000 individuals and families with affordable housing and counseling. Local programs are supported by NeighborWorks® America, which creates opportunities for people to live in affordable homes, improve their lives and strengthen their communities. www.nw.org

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