



333 Sherman Ave
New Haven, CT 06515

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES UNVEILS FIRST PROPERTY WITH CLIMATE-SMART LANDSCAPING

NEW HAVEN, CT, (November 9, 2018) – On Friday, November 16, Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven will be unveiling its most recent gut-rehab at 436 Huntington Street in Newhallville. Mayor Toni Harp will speak, and Terrence Floyd, of Wells Fargo, will also speak and present NHS with a “Priority Markets” check, representing the bank’s commitment to uplifting blighted neighborhoods in New Haven. Other local dignitaries have also been invited. The event will take place from 11 AM to 1 PM at 436 Huntington Street in New Haven, CT and food will be provided by Caribe Soul, courtesy of Wells Fargo.

Situated next to Huntington & Shepherd Serenity Garden, a property revitalized by Urban Resources Initiative, 436 Huntington Street is Neighborhood Housing Services’ first renovation to include landscaping with native (climate smart) plants. The choice represents NHS’ expanding commitment to environmental sustainability. Michael Haynes, Director of Real Estate Development and Property Management at Neighborhood Housing Services made the decision after a visit to Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden.

“My initial approach to landscaping the properties we rehabilitate was to plant a few colorful, inexpensive outdoor flowers in the front and backyard of each property,” Haynes said. “After a conversation with a co-worker about the benefits of using indigenous plants in landscaping the properties we develop, I decided to explore the possibility of doing that at 436 Huntington Street. The more I read about landscaping with native plants, the more I wanted to ensure that every landscape I work on has it. I am excited and proud to know that 436 Huntington Street features climate-smart indigenous plants and plan to make this a landscaping standard moving forward.”

NHS acquired this home in 2013 as a donated property from Bank of America, at which time it might well have been slated for demolition. After completely gutting the home and bringing it down to the studs, Haynes guided the rehabilitation of the property as a collaboration with EMERGE Connecticut, transforming it from a two-bedroom one-bath home into a three-bedroom one-bath home. The project was funded through grants and donations from several organizations including Wells Fargo, Eversource (through the State Housing Tax Credit and Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit Programs), the City of New Haven Community Development Block Grant program, and other private and corporate supporters.

The homeowner, Chilean-born Andres Concha-Brito, will take ownership of the home later this month.

About NHS New Haven:

Founded in 1979 as Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven, NHS New Haven is empowering families and revitalizing New Haven via social, economic, and environmental health. Their holistic approach to development includes creating affordable housing, building community, providing financial education and resident leadership training, and fostering environmental stewardship. Learn more at www.nhsfnewhaven.org