



MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY

Fall 2002

Edition

Issue 1

Hot off the presses: Groundwork Bridgeport's first newsletter! So many people who have worked with us or heard of us have called our offices expressing interest in volunteering, donating their time and money, or to find out if Groundwork Bridgeport could assist them with a project that they would like to see undertaken. The phones never stop ringing. That's a good thing! We decided to put together a newsletter to keep interested people informed of what we've done, what we're doing and what we are planning.

Since 1998, Groundwork Bridgeport has partnered with over 3250 individuals, 36 groups, 21 businesses and 15 foundations to reclaim and recreate 44 recreational and green spaces in the City. We are committed to partnering with people and organizations that share our dedication to improving, beautifying and building a better Bridgeport. Throughout the last four years, Groundwork Bridgeport has made it a point to draw volunteers from all segments of Bridgeport. Bringing together neighborhood residents empowers them to take back their neighborhoods and make them safer, cleaner and beautiful. Volunteers from many local youth groups and corporations assist us on projects and community clean-ups. Area organizations truly fill in the gaps by providing staff and clients on a regular basis. Schools and colleges never let us down. Seniors love getting involved, especially with youth. The City gives valuable time and use of equipment. It couldn't happen any other way. Only by engaging volunteers is it even remotely possible to do the work we accomplish here at Groundwork Bridgeport.

Groundwork Bridgeport would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of the individuals who have donated their time over the years. For this first edition, Groundwork Bridgeport would like to acknowledge the groups who we have partnered with over the years for giving countless volunteer hours. Your contributions have made a truly significant difference in the City:

- Barrett Outdoor Communications
- Bridgeport International Academy
- Bridgeport Board of Education and Schools
- Bridgeport Community Councils
- Bridgeport Community Policing Services
- Bridgeport Fire Department
- Bridgeport Kiwanis Club
- Career Resources
- City of Bridgeport
- Colleges: Fairfield University; Sacred Heart University, Housatonic Community College, University of Bridgeport
- Community Youth House
- Connecticut Department on Aging
- Connecticut Department of Corrections and Parole
- Connecticut Department of Social Services
- Design Partners
- Eisenhower Senior Center
- General Electric
- Groundwork Board of Directors
- Habitat for Humanity
- PRE/view Landscape Architects
- Tauck Worldwide Tours
- The United Illuminating Company
- Wheelabrator, LLP
- Young Republicans Club

**Have a project idea or interested in volunteering?
Student interns welcome, too! Call our office at 203-
332-1721 today.**

**Become part of making Bridgeport a safer, cleaner
and more beautiful place to live, work and visit.**

A SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank so many people and organizations that have supported and contributed to Groundwork Bridgeport, as well as extending a debt of gratitude to our own Board of Directors-that committed group of folks who believe in Groundwork's mission and give us unwavering support. In this issue we would like to acknowledge our donors who have provided Groundwork Bridgeport with the annual funding awards that are so vital to the successful operation of any nonprofit organization.

Council, Community Economic Development Fund, City of Bridgeport, the Connecticut Department of Forestry, FleetBoston Financial Foundation, Fairfield County Community Foundation, Fairfield Garden Club, Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation, GE Fund, Greater Bridgeport House and Garden Club, Junior League of Eastern Fairfield County, National Parks Service, National Tree Trust, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, People's Bank, SBC/SNET, United Illuminating Corporate Contributions



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All Eyes On:

HOMES FOR THE BRAVE

Homes For The Brave is a dream come true for homeless veterans in the City. Opening in August, the facility provides interim housing for Vet's in need of temporary shelter, job skills training and support. Groundwork Bridgeport staff-including two Vet's-and students from Sacred Heart University spent two day working on improving the outside appearance of the facility. Delighted to be part of this project, Groundwork Bridgeport Executive Director Richard Tiani, also a Vet, said, "It is a historic landmark building in the city and we are happy to be part of the restoration process for this major project." A pizza party followed, giving the Vet's and students a chance to share in what turned out to be an excellent and meaningful exchange. Also, discovered was that pizza is the real currency for volunteering.

LOOKING BACK AT 2002:

MARCH: Celebrity Breakfast with U.S. Congressman Christopher Shays

APRIL: Park City Sweep/Arbor Day Tree Plantings-Annual Spring City-wide clean up, planting and beautification day. Trees were planted at six area schools.

SEPTEMBER: 9/11 Groundwork joins with United Way Day of Caring in working on several planting and beautification projects.

OCTOBER: Make A Difference Day-Annual City-wide fall clean-up, planting and beautification day; landscaping and homeowner training for three Habitat for Humanity houses.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Anne S. Richardson Fund, Bridgeport Economic Development