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# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Inspirica and Charter Oak Communities Dedicate Summer Place**

STAMFORD, Conn., March 30, 2017 -- Charter Oak Communities (COC) and Inspirica, Inc. on Wednesday, April 12 will officially open Stamford's newest affordable housing development: Summer Place.

Located at 992 Summer Street in the heart of downtown Stamford, the facility consists of 48 units for seniors age 55+. It is a unique joint venture between two of Stamford's leading institutions, Charter Oak Communities and Inspirica, Inc.

The dedication ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 12th, 11:00am at 992 Summer Street. Speakers include United States Congressman Jim Himes, Stamford Mayor David R. Martin; Commissioner Evonne M. Klein, Department of Housing; John R. Zelinsky, Jr., Stamford Board of Representatives; Alanna C. Kabel, Director of Community Planning & Development for HUD; Vincent J. Tufo, Executive Director and CEO, Charter Oak Communities; and Jason T. Shaplen, CEO, Inspirica, Inc.

Summer Place features 40 one-bedroom apartments and 8 studio apartments in a five-story, 41,000 square-foot building. Five apartments meet ADA standards for handicap residents with the balance being adaptable as needed.

In addition to the apartments, the ground floor of Summer Place includes a community event space, resident services/counseling space, security reception, restrooms, and laundry facilities. The building further has a beautifully landscaped rooftop deck and covered rear patio. It has been designed to be highly energy-efficient and cost-effective while providing a superior quality of life for residents. The building replaces the Czescik Homes, a 1960's-era state-assisted housing complex on Greenwich Avenue that is physically and functionally obsolete.

Located adjacent to Inspirica's headquarters on Franklin Street, Summer Place will be a "caring community" intended to foster independent living and a positive experience for residents as they age in place. Inspirica will provide residents with a full range of supportive services, including counseling, healthcare screenings, nutritional support and intervention assistance. Residents will additionally access Inspirica's Franklin Commons campus, home to a wide array of services, including a health center and dental clinic.



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“Charter Oak Communities is pleased to be embarking on a partnership with Inspirica to provide exceptional housing opportunities in a unique service-enriched community setting,” said COC Executive Director & CEO, Vincent J. Tufo.

The rental structure for Summer Place incorporates HUD Section 8 operating subsidies for 24 of the 48 units. This subsidy will enable occupants to live at Summer Place regardless of income, with rental payments based upon 30 percent of adjusted household income. The remaining 24 units, while not receiving operating subsidies, will feature deeply discounted rents for households targeted at earning no more than 40 percent of the Area Median Income.

“Summer Place is the first of its kind and a model for others. It is a testament to what can happen when two of Stamford’s great institutions work together to address a critical need in the community: deeply affordable housing for seniors,” said Inspirica CEO, Jason T. Shaplen. “We hope that this collaborative approach will be replicated by others.”

The dedication of Summer Place is one of several COC events taking place this spring, under the banner “Celebrating Exceptional Communities.” Other activities include the formal groundbreaking of a new COC residence, Park 215, in early May; the completion and recognition of the first phase of modernization at Lawnhill Terrace, and start of phase two, both in early June; and the highly anticipated launch of the 2017 growing season at Fairgate Farm, beginning in early April, with Earth Day activities planned for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Inspirica similarly plans to break ground later this year on a new deeply affordable housing development on Franklin Street, a 53-unit facility for individuals and families, including a six-classroom school that will provide critical early childhood education to infants and toddlers.

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### **About Charter Oak Communities, *Different from other housing authorities***

Focused on the health, wellbeing and independence of our residents, Charter Oak Communities has set new standards for public-assisted housing, creating residences that are an asset to the Stamford community, strengthening neighborhoods and helping our residents become more self-sufficient. COC works with local partners equally vested in the community’s success to offer resident services, access to healthcare and wellness options, educational support and economic opportunities, and to ensure that everyone has a voice in our community. To learn more about COC, visit us online at [www.charteroakcommunities.org](http://www.charteroakcommunities.org).

### **About Inspirica, Inc.**

Inspirica, Inc. is one of the largest providers of services to the homeless in Connecticut and the largest in lower Fairfield County. Inspirica serves single men, single women, families, people living with HIV/AIDS, and people recovering from mental illness and/or drug or alcohol abuse. In addition, it provides myriad



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support services including: vocational training, workforce education, job placement, housing placement, job & housing retention support, children’s services, early childhood and parenting support, counseling, case management, and much more. Learn more about Inspirica at [www.inspiricaCT.org](http://www.inspiricaCT.org).

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