

January 8, 2008

## **NHHR RENAMES WOMEN IN CRISIS SHELTER “MARTHA’S PLACE” IN CEREMONY TO HONOR LONGTIME EMPLOYEE**

(New Haven, CT) – On January 8<sup>th</sup>, New Haven Home Recovery’s shelter formerly known as Women in Crisis was renamed “Martha’s Place” in a dedication ceremony to honor Martha E. Gonzalez. Gonzalez was a long time employee of New Haven Home Recovery and was instrumental in the beginning days of the agency.

Gonzalez was born in Detroit, Michigan 89 years ago. She is one of 4 sisters born into a musical family. Gonzalez began playing piano at the age of 9 years and performed with her sisters in a quartette called the Dare and Do. She was not only musically gifted but academically astute. Gonzalez won a spelling bee at a young age and graduated from high school at the age of 16. She attended Wayne State University to study music.

Gonzalez has many accomplishments including author of the National Anthem for the National Council for Negro Women, working as the first black, female nurse’s aide in Bridgeport Hospital and one of the first black women to work for Ford Motor Company during World War II.

Gonzalez has three children, 12 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and 1 great, great grandchild.

