

New housing complex in Milford offers support services (video)

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MILFORD — Seila Mosquera said she never lost faith during the eight years it took to transform an idea into the reality of \$2 million supportive housing complex that now sits across from the Beth El Center on New Haven Avenue.

The apartment complex, unveiled this week, has the look of a large house and will accommodate five families, along with a community meeting room and an office for an on-site social worker, said Mosquera, executive director of NeighborWorks New Horizons, which owns and will manage the property.

NeighborWorks New Horizons joined with the Beth El Center, which will provide counseling and other support to the families through a contract with the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The Beth El Center provides transitional housing to the homeless, but the 32-bed facility only allows clients to stay there for 90 days.

The new apartment complex, dubbed Liberty Point, serves as a complement to the work being done across the street at the Beth El Center, said Beth El Executive Director Toni Dolan.

The supportive housing is designed to break the cycle of poverty by providing families with affordable housing and on-site support, Dolan said.

“When we helped those who need the help the most we are a better community, we are a better people for it,” said Mayor James L. Richetelli Jr.

The project is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and the state Department of Social Services.

The project faced hurdles, including environmental damage from a former gas station on the site, securing funding and gaining building approvals from when it was first proposed in 2002.