

## PARTNERS ENDING HOMELESSNESS



connect • support • restore

# 2009 Report *to the community*

In June 2007, Guilford County, the City of Greensboro and the City of High Point adopted a comprehensive 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in our area. We are proud of the public and private investment in the Partners Ending Homelessness Initiative, and the progress we have made. As we celebrate the second anniversary of the movement to end chronic homelessness in Guilford County, it is important to recognize the accomplishments made by the many partners in the Plan and celebrate the individuals and families whose personal homelessness has ended. But there is still much work to do.

Thank you for your efforts to end chronic homelessness and reduce all other types of homelessness in Guilford County. We hope we can count on your support as we move forward to **connect** homeless individuals with resources that meet their needs; **support** the members of our community who need our help to secure and maintain proper housing; and **restore** a sense of self-worth, dignity, and stability to homeless families and individuals. This report chronicles the accomplishments of our partners.

## Connect

Established relationships with more than 100 community partners.

Mobilized more than 600 volunteers.

Leveraged more than \$1.5 million toward ending chronic homelessness and reducing all types of homelessness by 2016.

Created an Advocacy and Marketing Community Partnership Action Team to develop strategies for educating Guilford County citizens about implementation of the 10 Year Plan, Housing First, and homelessness in Guilford County.

- Launched new website: [www.PartnersEndingHomelessness.org](http://www.PartnersEndingHomelessness.org).
- Produced video about Guilford County's Ten Year Plan efforts.
- Developed talking points about homelessness in our community and created a Speakers Bureau.
- Increased media coverage of issues relating to homelessness in Guilford County.

Established a Continuum of Care Housing and Supportive Services Action Team to increase coordination between mainstream supportive services and providers of housing.

- Established the Direct Service Providers Network to increase front line staff's ability to access resources more efficiently, expand awareness and access of services available in Guilford County, and create an ongoing resource network of direct service providers.
- Developed pocket-sized compendium of information on shelters, meals, pantries, crisis line resources.
- Created a comprehensive Resource Guide to increase awareness and assist those in need by providing referral information on a variety of services for individuals and families who are either at-risk of homelessness or who are experiencing homelessness.

Established High Point Community Resource Network, led by Open Door Ministries, to improve coordination of resources in our community.

## Support

Strengthened access to the community for newly-housed individuals by creating the Supportive Housing Goods and Services Action Team.

- Designed HOPE Team model to support, encourage, and empower chronically homeless individuals to acquire the skills necessary to maintain housing while improving their quality of life.

Developed Housing Opportunities and Education Initiative to educate landlords and direct service providers, and advocate for safe, decent, and affordable housing.

- Created a Housing Support Specialist position with The Guilford Center to aid in developing a strategic housing plan, training and educating providers, and establishing community partnerships.
- Trained 70 landlords, property managers, and developers on Fair Housing Law and Reasonable Accommodations.
- Strengthened more than 60 service providers' ability to access housing for people with disabilities through educational sessions.

Established Greensboro Day Center Task Force to provide daytime shelter and assistance for homeless individuals.

- Created Interactive Resource Center in Greensboro to offer job skills training, housing advice, GED preparation and one-on-one support for people experiencing homelessness.
- The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro received an in-kind gift of a facility to be used as a permanent location for the Interactive Resource Center and established a fund to raise money to help restore and operate the facility.

Developed a Discharge Planning Community Partnership Action Team to ensure that every person discharged from jail, hospitals, mental health care, or foster care has a plan for stable housing.

- In September 2008, a Disability Application Specialist was hired to implement the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) program for people experiencing chronic homelessness.
- Trained 38 service providers to navigate the disability determination system to most efficiently serve the disabled homeless population.
- Guilford County was recognized with a Bronze Level certification as a North Carolina SOAR Community.

Developed an Education and Job Training Action Team to strengthen coordination of services between mainstream job training, employment and education programs, supportive employment agencies, homeless service agencies, and homeless clients.

Created a unique partnership of faith and community service partners to establish the WE! Initiative to provide six emergency shelters to more than 100 individuals experiencing homelessness.

Partnered with the Mental Health Coalition of Guilford County to advocate for the highest quality mental health care.

Collaborated with the Guilford County Substance Abuse Coalition to increase education and awareness of substance abuse and its effect on our community.

## Restore

Re-launched Operation Greensboro Cares with The United Way of Greater Greensboro, The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, The Greensboro News & Record, WFMY News 2, and Rock 92 / WKZL FM. More than \$400,000 was raised for emergency food, shelter, and assistance.

In May 2007, the Guilford Center formed a Housing Support Team with Family Service of the Piedmont, Open Door Ministries, and the Greensboro Housing Coalition. This team helps move individuals experiencing chronic homelessness into permanent housing and help them to maintain it, thereby reducing hospital, emergency room, and jail admissions.

- Established new relationships with 26 landlords who provide permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.
- As of March 31, 2009, 66 individuals were stably housed.

The Greensboro Housing Authority's Supportive Housing Program was established in February 2008 as a community-based permanent and supportive housing service program for homeless individuals and families with special needs.

- As of March 31, 2009, 24 individuals and 24 families were stably housed.

In July 2008, launched Young Adult Independent Living at Joseph's House to provide single-family scattered-site apartments for young adults experiencing chronic homelessness.

- As of March 31, 2009, five young adults were stably housed.

I AM Now, INC's Non Resident program, was launched in July 2008 to secure housing for young adults with disabilities experiencing homelessness.

- As of March 31, 2009, four young adults were stably housed.

In September 2008, Greensboro Urban Ministry launched Beyond Pathways, a program to rapidly re-house families out of the Pathways Center Shelter and into their own homes.

- As of March 31, 2009, seven families have been stably housed.

*During the last two years, the Partners Ending Homelessness Initiative has helped secure housing for more than 99 individuals and 31 families. The program's initial goal was to house 20 people per year for the next 10 years. We know our mission to end chronic homelessness in Guilford County is achievable. With your help, we can accomplish something truly remarkable. Please visit our website at [www.PartnersEndingHomelessness.org](http://www.PartnersEndingHomelessness.org) to learn how you can help.*