

## **Furniture drive helps needy families**

**By Pam Haynes**

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HIGH POINT - High Point may be famous for selling its furniture to buyers across the world, but some nonprofit agencies are asking individuals and corporations to donate their home furnishings to those in need this weekend.

The Furnish A Dream event will collect new and used furniture and household goods on Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 200 Steele St. for families and individuals transitioning from homelessness to housing. A second collection day also will be held in Greensboro on Aug. 29 at Grimsley High School.

Sponsored by Partners Ending Homelessness, the collected furniture will be distributed through The Barnabas Network and Home to Home, two nonprofits that provide furniture to Guilford County families who can't afford it otherwise.

"The furniture is open to all individuals in need," said Jehan Benton, executive director of Partners Ending Homelessness.

Items including beds, tables, chairs and lamps are needed, as well as other household goods including bathroom towels, small kitchen appliances or supplies such as laundry detergent.

Dan Hodgson, co-chair of the Goods and Services committee of Partners Ending Homelessness and a member of the Home to Home board of directors, said the nonprofits are dealing with a low supply of furniture compared to recent years.

"Right now, we're very lean in our warehouse for people who can't afford or don't have furniture," he said.

Benton said some of the furniture would benefit those in the organization's Housing First program, which moves the homeless directly from the streets to housing instead of a shelter.

"There are individuals in our community in need, and this is a great way to show our support to them so they can have the same type of housewarming experiences that we have when we move into our apartments or home," she said.

"High Point is the furniture capital of the world. This will be a great expression of love to see our community get behind this effort," she added.

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