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## **Housing initiative surpasses goals**

ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

High Point Enterprise

TRIAD – When Partners Ending Homelessness began its task two years ago, its primary goal was to house 20 people a year for 10 years.

When Jehan Benton, director of the Partners Ending Homelessness Initiative, gave a report from the field of New Bridge Bank Park in Greensboro Monday morning, she told about 75 community stakeholders that housing has been secured for more than 99 individuals and 31 families.

Major accomplishments by the partnership outlined Monday are:

- Establishing relationships with more than 100 community partners and mobilizing 600 volunteers.
- Leveraging more than \$1.5 million to ending chronic homelessness and reducing all types of homelessness by 2016.
- Establishing the Direct Service Providers Network, helping to increase ability to access resources, expand awareness and access of services, and create an ongoing resource network.
- Creating a unique partnership between more than five faith and community service partners, establishing an initiative to provide six emergency shelters to more than 100 individuals experiencing homelessness.

The organization's Servant Leadership Award was presented to David S. Miller, the initiative's chairman, recognizing his years of service to the community, working to improve the quality of life for all fellow citizens and for his compassion, energy and selflessness. The award now will be named the David S. Miller Servant Leadership Award. Temple Emanuel was presented the Nehemiah Award for its leadership around the issue of homelessness. Guilford Center was recognized with the Time Counts Award for its work on many levels to ensure the success of the Partners Ending Homelessness effort by securing a grant that allowed implementing Housing First and establishing a position that works to ensure residents have access to safe, decent and affordable housing, public mental health care and 24-hour crisis service. Others recognized for their roles in implementation of the Connect/Support/Restore plan were: Guilford County Commissioner Paul Gibson; High Point Mayor Becky Smothers; Greensboro Councilwoman T. Dianne Bellamy-Small; Mitch McGee, Family Service of the Piedmont Housing Support Team; Dan Hodgson, Hope Outreach Center; Tom Blount, The High Point Enterprise; Nicky Smith, CarolinaNet; Anne Kimball, Guilford Center; and Wes Ward, Westover Church.