

United Way of High Point honors agencies, outstanding volunteer at meeting

By Pam Haynes

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HIGH POINT - The United Way of High Point honored several partner agencies and one outstanding volunteer at its annual meeting on Wednesday.

The 2009 Child Advocate of the Year Award was presented to the Children's Cabinet of High Point, a nonprofit organization that focuses on improving conditions for foster children in the community.

Dot Kearns, retired from the Guilford County Board of Education, presented the award at the event, held at the High Point Country Club.

"This group of about 20 members started to address a very troubling issue - the statistics surrounding foster children, their foster parents and their biological parents," she said about the organization.

Kearns said there were 184 foster children in High Point before the cabinet formed in 2003 and 66 in the city's custody today. She said the number of foster homes had increased by 261 percent and displaced children were moved less frequently than in 2003.

The 2009 Chairman Award also was presented at the event by Pete Cross, former chairman of the United Way board of directors, to David Miller. Miller has served as campaign chair for the United Way and is chair of the 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness in Guilford County.

"Dave has a vision for what could be as well as what could be better," Cross said.

Several businesses and organizations were honored with Community Partner Awards, including The High Point Enterprise for excellent media coverage of the United Way campaign and Jason Scott, general manager of Belk at Oak Hollow Mall, for the store's donations and involvement. High Point University also received the award for its elevated employee donations and student involvement.

Cross passed the gavel to Pamela Palmer, assistant professor of human relations and director of American humanics at High Point University, who will lead the board in its 2009 campaign.

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