

## People walk to remember homeless

Updated: 12/19/2007 08:28 PM

By: Kira Mathis

GREENSBORO- Michelle Forrest has spent several years working with homeless in Greensboro.

"Some of them die and we don't know about it until later and their lives are not honored and it's difficult," Forrest said.

That's why for the past four years she has walked in the Greensboro Homeless Memorial Walk. The walk honors the homeless who die in the area each year.

"We feel like that just because they aren't Dale Earnhardt or Princess Diana, they're lives are important to be remembered," Rev. Frank Dew, chaplain of Urban Ministry said.

Wednesday evening people gathered at Greensboro Urban Ministry for the walk down West Lee Street to Grace Community Church. The walk is short, but it means a lot.



"We had a guy that died last year and there was a lot of us that went to his memorial service and that was really awesome. He was really loved," Forrest commented.

The county wants to end homelessness all together.

At Grace Community Church they joined other supporters for the reading of the names of the five homeless people who died in Greensboro this year and read a proclamation from Mayor Yvonne Johnson declaring the day Homeless Person Day in Greensboro.

Dew says the walk also serves as a reminder for Guilford County's plan to end homelessness by 2017 and the things that people need to do to make it happen.

"First of all: to raise awareness in our community that we have this plan and that we have a strategy. And so we want to raise awareness and encourage our leaders to help fund things for example: a housing first program which puts chronic homeless people in homes," he said.

People like Forrest remain hopeful that goal will be reached.