

Housing Partnership celebrates year of progress

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PORTSMOUTH — In an effort to recognize the growing need for affordable housing throughout the Seacoast community and honor those who've continued to make a difference in the housing market, scores of local business people, city officials and honored guests gathered Tuesday night to celebrate a year of progress.

The Housing Partnership annual celebration and honors reception took place in the Sheraton Harborside Hotel Grand Ballroom and featured various awards presented to individuals and local organizations who have truly had an impact on providing more affordable housing to those in need.

Dick Ingram, executive director of **The Housing Partnership**, kicked things off with a few comments about his organization and then presented awards to the deserving recipients.

"We've made a real difference because you've helped make it so," said Ingram.

Among those honored were Monique Adjami Shevlin who received the Volunteer of the Year Award, Norman Ritter for the Make a Difference Donor Award, along with Charles and Alison Pickard who received the Resident of the Year Award.

Also honored was the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce which received the Pro Bono Publico Award and the Northern New England Housing Investment Fund for the Partnership in Housing Excellence Award.

During the presentation ceremony, Ingram also announced that for the first time in five years, his organization had developed nearly 63 units to be added the stock of quality affordable housing on the Seacoast. Ingram also spoke about the idea of producing nearly 150 more units over the next five years along with preserving 150 more units of affordable housing.

"We want to develop a pipeline that is robust," said Ingram.