

Every little helps in quest to reach £9.3m

Launch night sees charity make a start

Rob.Virtue
@wharf.co.uk

A former resident of a homeless charity in Canning Town has helped out their multi-million-pound appeal by pledging £5,000.

Anchor House, which gives shelter to those on the street and helps train them for work, is looking to raise £9.3million to upgrade the property, as well as building apartments for those looking to take a major step back towards independent living.

On the night of the appeal's launch at the Inner Temple on Monday £1million was raised from the 200 attendees, including homeless campaigner John Bird and patron Julie Etchingham from ITN News.

Part of that was a gift from former homeless man Danny



Homeless campaigner John Bird and Barry McGuigan

Reisinger, who now works as a sewing machine engineer.

"This is just my way of giving back to Anchor House," said Danny. "The help and training they give to those that need it is truly amazing."

Danny arrived at the centre five years ago after falling on hard times when his employer failed to pay him his wages.

The charity has a strong track record in getting its residents, who are mostly referred to them by housing groups and prisons, back into work and independent living.

Former boxer Barry McGuigan, who is one of the patron's of the charity, said he was won over by Anchor House after visiting the east London facility and talking to the residents.

He said: "Someone told me about Anchor House and I thought it was amazing. They make people feel so much better about themselves.

"I know times are difficult but if you spend half an hour there you want to give all your money to the charity." Go to anchorhouseuk.org.