



Charity receives £1million in pledges



■ **Big Issue founder John Bird (left) with former boxer Barry McGuigan**

More than £1million in pledges were offered in support of Anchor House at an event attended by more than 200 people in central London.

Led by ITV newsreader Julie Etchingham and former world boxing champion Barry McGuigan, the charity launched a £9.3m Home and Hope Appeal to help bring regeneration to east London and its homeless residents.

Keith Fernett, Anchor House director, said the event had been a tremendous success, with Barclays Bank pledging a substantial amount of support towards redeveloping its 50-year-old centre.

He said: "In a matter of one night, we now have enough funds to build five out of 25 new studio move-on apartments for our residents. We still have a long way to go, but we are confident that this is the start of big things to come."

At the event, John Bird, the founder of The Big Issue and a former homeless person, paid tribute to the work of Anchor House.

Mr Bird argued that it was important that the public gave its support to charities such as Anchor House which provide homeless people with a hand up, not a handout.