



**Mecklenburg Ministries**  
*From Common Ground to Higher Ground*

## **2012 Bridge Builder Award Recipient**

### **Gail Card**

Gail is the sort of volunteer every nonprofit organization desires. She is steady, reliable and totally committed to the mission. Gail worked on the staff of Mecklenburg Ministries in the early 1990s and served two consecutive terms on the Board of Directors from 2005 to 2010. In addition, Gail co-chaired the inaugural community breakfast committee and continued in that role for five years. She worked tirelessly behind-the-scenes to make sure the event was a big success. Gail is always ready to raise her hand to help with everything from stuffing envelopes to fundraising.

Gail and her husband, Merritt, are both completely committed to building bridges across differences. They are active members of St. Stephen United Methodist Church and regularly volunteer their time across the community with a variety of organizations.

Dianne English, former executive director, said “Gail Card came to work for Mecklenburg Ministries and immediately increased the impact of its staff by 200%. Gail brought her infectious spirit, her good sense and incredible work ethic – along with her strong faith and her commitment to justice – to the interfaith mission of this fledgling organization which continues to benefit from her investment and her loyalty. Anyone who has seen Gail smile knows that things are just better when Gail’s around – and they know that things are going to get done and done well. I’m just a fan – plain and simple.”

Gail also served on the board of the Men’s Shelter and is a faithful volunteer. Carson Dean, executive director, commented: “Gail Card is a quiet but strong leader at the Men’s Shelter of Charlotte. Once a month for nearly 30 years, Gail has served homeless men at our facility. Her service is about more than making sure the men we serve have a proper meal. Her work is about leveling the playing field between those who have and those who don’t. Gail is driven by her kind heart and compassion. She truly believes that each man deserves to be treated as an equal and has the potential to overcome his homelessness. She does her part by reaching out to our guests with a smile and assures them that she cares. All of us at the Men’s Shelter are truly grateful for her faithfulness to homeless men.”

Linda Blum, director of development at Habitat for Humanity Charlotte (where Gail also volunteers) wrote, “I am impressed with both Gail and Merritt’s commitment to give back to the community and their ability to see past differences of ages, race, color and economic circumstances. Gail is committed to ‘walking the walk’ and using her time, energy and financial resources to making a difference and helping to solve community problems.”