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NAIOP's Begelfer receives Shelter's Appreciation of Partnership Award

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NAIOP Massachusetts was honored for two decades of working to end homelessness at Shelter's annual meeting, held at the Harvard Club. The nonprofit organization recognized NAIOP for its nearly 20-year commitment to Shelter, during which time it has raised more than \$1.1 million through its annual NAIOP/Shelter Golf Tournament.

Other honorees at the meeting included Mayor Thomas Menino, who received the William E. "Bo" Holland Public Service Award, Maria Martin who received the Employee of the Year Award, and Home Start, which received the Community Partner Award.

Executive director Tom Lorello said it had been difficult to find the words to recognize NAIOP's ongoing contributions of time, talent, and financial support. "Have you ever been blessed with friends that you have run out of accolades for?" Lorello asked as he presented Shelter's Appreciation of Partnership Award to David Begelfer, NAIOP's chief executive officer. "When I thought about recognizing NAIOP, I couldn't help but make a comparison in my mind to when Michael Jordan was playing in the NBA. To me, when MJ was playing he was the MVP every year and everybody knew it, but they couldn't give it to him every year. That's close to how we think about David and NAIOP. They're our MVP every year but we look for special opportunities to say it out loud."

A long-time NAIOP leader, Begelfer has worked closely with Shelter from the beginning of their partnership. "We are proud of the excellent relationship we have built with Shelter and of the generous support our members have given to their work to end homelessness for good in our communities. They are an outstanding, effective organization, and we look forward to another successful 20 years together."

NAIOP's annual golf tournament is held in early June each year, with more than 500 players on four courses in Stow, MA. Thanks to generous contributions from event sponsors and the hundreds of commercial real estate professionals who play each year, NAIOP has consistently been the largest single contributor to Shelter, providing critical funding to this worthy organization. At a time when affordable housing is in crisis in the Commonwealth, Shelter provides area families in need with the support necessary to improve their lives and live independently. To learn more about Shelter and the vital services they provide, go to www.shelterinc.org.

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