

Shelter's furniture a gift from prize winner

HAMILTON — A 94-year-old Hamilton woman recently entered the JournalNews' living room makeover contest — and she won.



But when it came time to claim her prize of selecting \$3,000 worth of furniture, the woman had a change of heart. She realized she had no use for new furniture.

However, she accepted her winnings on the condition it be given to charity. As a result, Serve City's East Avenue homeless shelter recently received a new couch, love seat, two rocking chairs and three end tables on behalf of the anonymous donor.

"It wasn't anything she wanted. So she decided she wanted to give it to someone in need," said Kathy Beatty, circulation sales and development coordinator for the Southwest Group of Cox Ohio Publishing.

The contest, which took place last week, was in conjunction with Jay's Furniture on the corner of High Street and North Erie Boulevard in Hamilton. Since the donor decided to give to Serve City's Church Hospitality Emergency Shelter Network, store officials gave a little more than \$3,000 in furniture, according to Beatty.

Serve City Executive Director Linda Kimble said the new furniture has added some coziness for those without permanent housing.

"We are thrilled and very surprised," she said about the donation. "We've had nothing but used furniture. It's nice to have real quality and that the donor cares about the homeless."

As for Beatty, who is also involved in various community outreach projects through St. Julie Billiard Church, she's maintained contact with the winner and now considers the woman a friend.

"She was so humble, so kind," Beatty said. "She just touched my heart."

Story and photo courtesy of Hamilton JournalNews
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