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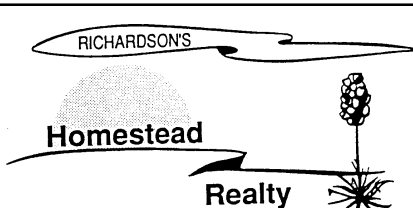
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In holiday spirit, company donates fans, room heaters for those who face violence

The Northwest Kansas Family Shelter recently received a donation of \$3,504 worth of fans, room heaters and humidifiers. The donation came from Vornado Air Circulation Systems at Andover.

The shelter covers 18 counties in northwest Kansas and takes care of victims of domestic violence.

Charlotte Linsner, outreach services coordinator, said half of the donation will go to Hays, which is the head office, and half will stay in the Goodland outreach office. She handles the nine northwestern counties.

Linsner's brother, Robert Kuhn, is director of manufacturing at the Andover plant. She had called him two years ago to ask if the company donated to organizations and found out that they did.

She said the fact that her brother works at the plant probably did help some in getting the fans.

Linsner said the air circulation company is a big corporation and likes donating to non-profit organizations.

So that's how we got the donation, she said.

Two years ago the company gave the shelter 12 fans and when she called this year they were willing to donate again.

She went to Andover to get the products about two weeks ago.

"Just a really nice donation," she said.

Linsner said the back of the pickup she drove to Andover was full after the products were loaded.

"I was amazed," she said. "I had no idea they had that planned for us."

She said the employees at the plant were nice and some ladies helped her load the donated items into the pickup.

"It was a nice experience," she said.

Most of the products received are fans, which will be given to victims of domestic violence.

She explained that when a woman leaves an abusive situation, many times the house they have to live in isn't well insulated, so it may be hard to keep cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Or the woman may not want to use an air conditioner or furnace much because they don't have the money to pay for utilities. What they pay in utilities, they sacrifice in food.



Some assembly is required for the fans and room heaters which were recently donated to the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter. Kathryn Wedermeyer (left) and Charlotte Linsner unpacked one of the Vornado fans to be given out.

Photo by Janet Craft / The Goodland Daily News

So that's where the fans and room heaters can be useful. Linsner said that just getting some air circulating when a house is hot can help and a heater can help to take off the chill in a room during the winter.

The organization has a 24-hour crisis

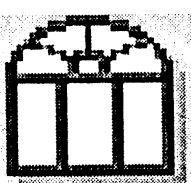
line. They act as advocates for both men and women. Of the violence cases they are involved in, 95 percent are men against women and 5 percent are women against men. In 1999, over 500 victims were served in the 18 county area.

We salute those who reach out to help others at this time of year, and encourage everyone to keep the true spirit of the season in their hearts as we shop and prepare to enjoy the holidays with friends, co-workers and families.



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