

Bethany piles on mattresses, blessings

By Leon Lagerstam, llagerstam@qconline.com | Posted: Friday, December 26, 2014 8:30 am

MOLINE -- Bethany for Children and Families gave mattresses and blessings earlier this week.

The not-for-profit agency distributed 36 new mattress sets to needy people, provided by Slumberland Furniture Stores of Davenport and Moline, as part of the company's annual "Making Homes for the Holidays" program.

"We're so grateful for community partners like Slumberland," Bethany communications manager Joscelyn Stone said. "It's got to be worth thousands of dollars."

Eleven Tempur-Pedic mattresses didn't require box springs, but Slumberland also donated 25 mattress/box spring sets.

A steady line of Bethany clients came in to pick up their new beds.

Louise Thompson, of Rock Island, said she was almost at a loss for words because of the unexpected generosity.

"I just moved here," she said. "I feel so blessed to come to this area and be helped in this way. I'm a single mother of four kids, and this will help us so much. I thank Slumberland and Bethany from the bottom of my heart."

Christine Bryson, of Davenport, felt equally blessed. She and her two kids had been sleeping on air mattresses. "Now, I won't have to keep going back and keep buying air mattresses after they break," she said.

Hearing stories from people picking up mattress sets helped volunteer mattress movers Chase Hager, 18, and Conor Cleaveland, 17, both of Davenport, count their blessings, they said.

"One of the stories I heard was about three kids having to sleep on the floor," Mr. Hager said. "It makes you realize how good you have it. And it feels good knowing these mattresses are going to needy families."



Conor Cleaveland pulls a mattress off the pile as he helps load cars at Bethany for Children & Families in Moline on Monday, Dec. 22, 2014. Bethany for Children & Families, in conjunction with Slumberland Furniture, donated 33 mattress to Quad-Cities families with unmet needs.

"I didn't like thinking of kids sleeping on floors or in terrible places," Mr. Cleaveland said.

"For this to be done during the holidays also makes it heartwarming," Mr. Hager said.

"We feel just as excited and blessed as the people receiving these mattresses," Ms. Stone said. "We saw a lot of happy tears."

Rain didn't dampen any spirits, she said.

"We didn't let the rain slow us down at all," Ms. Stone said. "It's never a bad day when you get to help people with something that seems like such a basic thing we take for granted."