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Site to Fill Families' New Homes

BY TANYANIKA SAMUELS

A Bronx nonprofit is looking to lift the spirit of giving to a whole new level. **The Women's Housing and Economic Development Corp. has launched www. MovingDay.org-** a donation Web site to help furnish apartments for low-income and formerly homeless families.

The nonprofit is opening new apartments for 127 families at Intervale Green in the South Bronx later this month. **"For the dozens of families moving in directly from the shelter system, with literally nothing but the clothes on their backs, any gift can be a fresh start to a new life," said Nancy Biberman, who heads the nonprofit group.**

The new apartment complex at 1330 Intervale Ave. features more than a half-acre of vegetation, "green" roofs, courtyards, a public park and sculpture garden. The organization's family support staff will assist residents as they settle into their new homes and neighborhood.

The nonprofit teamed with Sanborn Media Factory Inc., to create the interactive donation Web site. Prospective donors may take virtual tours of the apartments and select single items, such as a lamp or a chair to donate, or entire rooms to furnish. The Web site is a unique way of "empowering each of us with a simple way to truly make a difference this holiday season," said Chris Sanborn, who heads Sanborn Media Factory Inc.

The donation possibilities runs the gamut from hangers (\$20) to living room rugs (\$100) to couches (\$750). Donors may also choose to furnish entire homes. For example, a one-bedroom apartment is listed at \$3,135.

Mary Yelenick, an attorney in Manhattan, last week donated \$4,855 in furnishings for a threebedroom apartment. It's just so very important, and it doesn't take much to share what we have," she said. "We live in a community. We can't divorce ourselves from other people."

Already, the effort has garnered \$11,000 in donations. The hope is that families will have beautiful homes to move into, organizers said.

"In a year when money is tight, and the future uncertain," Biberman said, "the Web site is a terrific opportunity to give with meaning this holiday season."

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HELP FURNISH A HOME For more information, visit www.MovingDay.org. Donations are 100% tax deductible