

## in partnership

highlighting our partners

### Hotel Renovations Are a Boon for Furnish a Future Clients

New **York** Marriott Marquis  
Sheraton New **York** Hotel and Towers  
Hotel Association of New **York** City

*Donors of high-quality hotel furniture  
to The Partnership's Furnish a Future  
furniture bank.*

**"I**t's like winning the lottery,"  
Esmeralda Vicente described her  
recent visit to **Furnish a Future**, The  
Partnership's furniture bank.

Ms. Vicente, a single mother with four  
young children—two of whom are severely  
disabled—was living in an empty apartment  
until her free "shopping trip" to Furnish a  
Future, where she chose a suite of furniture.

Furnish a Future clients have the **New  
York Marriott Marquis** to thank for a  
recent supply of great furniture. The hotel is  
renovating 1,000 rooms this year—and  
donating most of the contents to Furnish a  
Future. It is hoping to donate an additional  
1,000 rooms next year. In turn, all of the  
furnishings are given free to formerly  
homeless individuals and families as they  
leave the shelter system.

At the **Sheraton New York Hotel and  
Towers** loading dock, a tractor-trailer truck  
is consuming vast quantities of armoires,  
desks, upholstered chairs, lamps, and more,

Almost as soon as the suites of hotel  
furniture reach Furnish a Future's  
"showroom" floor, they are snapped up by  
formerly homeless families. "Often, they  
will see us unloading the trucks and run  
over to ask if they can have one of the  
items. We tag it for them immediately and  
set it aside for delivery," Lee says.

While furniture  
comprises a large  
part of hotel  
donations, many  
other items are just  
as important to  
families who are  
rebuilding their  
lives. Blankets,  
sheets, pillows,  
bedspreads,  
draperies, rugs,  
dishes, mirrors, and  
even hotel artwork are treasured.

Thanks to a renewed push from the **Hotel  
Association of New York City**, many more  
area lodgings will be contributing to this  
cornucopia of furniture. In a recent memo,  
Hotel Association President **Joseph E.  
Spinnato** urged all of his members to  
donate excess furniture and furnishings.

The city's hotel industry has been a

**Mike Stengel**, General Manager of the  
New **York** Marriott Marquis, said: "As a  
company, Marriott has always emphasized  
the importance of serving the community in  
which our hotels do business. Our donation  
of furniture to Furnish a Future is truly a  
part of our overall Spirit to Serve mission.  
We are so pleased to be able to help indi-

viduals and families  
in a very basic and  
direct way, by  
providing them with  
comforts as they  
create new homes."

The New **York  
Marriott Marquis'**  
contribution was  
coordinated through  
**Digney York**  
**Associates**, a  
Virginia-based hotel

renovation company. **Digney York** also  
arranged for workers to load the trucks with  
donated furnishings. "This was a great  
opportunity for us to give furniture that's in  
good condition. We're pleased that it's  
going to families who need it," said **Molly  
Egan** of **Digney York**.

Many other hotels have given generously  
to Furnish a Future in recent months, too.

*Esmeralda Vicente poses on her new sofa.*