



Movers for Mom program to benefit Jackson moms in domestic-violence shelters

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Jackson-area moms celebrating Mother's Day in a domestic-violence shelter will receive much-needed clothing and personal-care items thanks to a statewide initiative.

The Movers for Moms program — a partnership between National Heritage Academies and Two Men and a Truck — encourages students to collect items, which are then delivered to shelters by the moving company.

Locally, students at Paragon Charter Academy are partnering with the Jackson franchise of Two Men and a Truck to support the AWARE Shelter.

During a school assembly recently, AWARE Executive Director Rebecca Filip told students that moms sometimes have to leave their home and go to the shelter for safety.

"It's a very dangerous time for them," Filip said.

Jeffrey Snyder, owner of the local Two Men and a Truck franchise, said the program is a good fit for the company because it was started by a woman, Mary Ellen Sheets.

"We all have a mother and we all want them to have a great Mother's Day," Snyder said.

Eighth-grader Chris Olmos said it would probably be scary to go to the shelter in an emergency, and he planned to bring in some clothes or a blanket.

Last year Paragon students made a large dollhouse for children at the shelter. Madison Ruotolo, an eighth-grader, said the project was hard but worth it.

"It felt good to take it in to the shelter and know they would be able to play with it," Madison said.

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