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NEWS RELEASE

Hotel donates televisions to local residents

Loretta Miller of Nelsonville loves watching the news on her television, but for quite a while now she has had trouble seeing the picture on her screen very well.

The homebound senior citizen watches television in order to try to keep up with everything going on in the world, but with her vision problems, it had gotten more and more difficult for her to watch the news or any other program she enjoys on her very small, 12-inch television set.

A donation from the Hampton Inn in Athens changed all that for her, and also made a positive difference in the lives of many other Athens County residents.

Jack and Sandy Bortle of Athens own the Hampton Inn, and recently purchased new television sets for the rooms in the hotel in order to keep up with requirements from the hotel chain. The old televisions were in excellent condition and were only a few years old, so the hotel donated between 50 and 60 of them to local community groups. Athens County Job and Family Services was one of the community groups that received the televisions.

"We gave a great many of them to local charitable organizations," Jack Bortle said. The large-screen televisions originally cost the hotel between \$300 and \$400 each, and Jack and Sandy Bortle wanted to get them to people in the community who could use them, people like Loretta Miller.

Miller has vision problems, health problems from polio and a few other ailments that keep her at home much of the time.

"I can't get up stairs," she said about one problem with her mobility. She watches television in her bedroom, and was very thankful to get the new and much larger television that she can see so much better.

Jeanne and Harry Thomas also received a new television for their home near Doanville. Harry, who is 79, is confined to a wheelchair due to health problems and is home most of the time. Jeanne Thomas explained that he has an electric wheelchair, but there are no sidewalks out where they live so there is nowhere for him to go. An aide comes to the house every week or two to take him into town, but he is home for the most part.

The new television is much bigger and easier for him to see from his wheelchair or the bed.

Harry, who is a Native American and also goes by the name Majawashieka, was very happy

with the television when he received it, and was watching it almost as soon as it was hooked up.

Athens County Job and Family Services received six televisions from the Hampton Inn and then delivered them to senior citizens in the county. One of the sets went to a community center room used by senior citizens, and the other five all went to senior citizens who are homebound. Along with Loretta Miller and Jeanne and Harry Thomas, the other recipients were all thankful for the donation and were surprised at just how big the sets are. One recipient even said that the new television was the biggest set she ever had. Most were using very old television sets that were much smaller and were in poor condition.



Loretta Miller of Nelsonville is shown with the new television she received thanks to a donation from the Hampton Inn of Athens.