



13 April 2007

Tony's charity card trick brings magic moments to residents

Whitefriars Housing Group is inviting some of the city's most deprived residents to take a chair...or a table, sofa or washing machine.

Tony Blanche, business accountant at the not-for-profit landlord, wasn't banking on a penny when he handed over his business card to Lloyds TSB at a conference raffle. However after scooping £1,000 the kind-hearted employee handed it over to the Coventry Cyrenians.

The unexpected jackpot is set to boost the furnished lettings scheme which was originally set-up by Whitefriars and the Coventry Cyrenians back in 2001.

Since its launch the scheme, which helps young residents setting up home by giving them furniture for their property, has aided more than 60 16 to 24-year-olds across the city.

Tony said he hoped the £1,000 would enable the charity to help many more people.

"When I heard I had won I was really surprised. When the news had sunk in, I knew I wanted to help a local charity which had links to Whitefriars. Having been involved with the furniture lettings scheme since its inception I was keen to support this fantastic project.

“When you move out of home for the first time it can be hard enough to get on your feet, whoever you are, but if you’re fleeing family problems or overcoming an illness or addiction then it can be a very lonely difficult time. At Whitefriars we are committed to ensuring residents have the support on hand to make a success of their tenancies, and I’m sure this money will make a big difference. I would like to say thank you to Lloyds for giving me the opportunity to help local people.”

Mike Fowler of the Cyrenians said: “This project is crucial in helping disadvantaged young people to become as independent as possible. Without the financial support which gives young people this chance, some will end up becoming entrenched in a life of homelessness, something we all work very hard to avoid. This scheme is dependent on charitable donations so we are all really grateful to Tony/Lloyds TSB for their kindness.”

Simon Cossey, from the Housing Team within Lloyds TSB Corporate Markets, said: “Lloyds TSB is delighted to be able to contribute to such a worthy cause.”

Ends

**For further information please contact Michelle Hallmark at The Bridge Group on
024 7656 0449 or m.hallmark@bridge-group.co.uk**