

Loews Hotel furniture goes to Sandy victims

The Loews Regency, which recently closed for renovations, is donating more than 3,600 items to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York, said owner Jonathan Tisch.

ARTICLE COMMENTS

BY ALI ELKIN
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Rendering of the new lobby lounge at the Loews Regency Hotel, which donated old furnishings to Sandy victims. Photo: Courtesy of Loews Hotels & Resorts

A Coney Island senior center badly damaged by Superstorm Sandy on Wednesday received a truckload of refrigerators, rugs, conference tables and televisions that, until recently, serviced the Loews Regency Hotel.

The hotel closed for renovations at the beginning of January and is scheduled to reopen by fall of 2013. Originally, Loews Hotels & Resorts planned to sell all of the hotel's furnishings to a liquidator, explained Jonathan Tisch, company chairman. After the storm hit, however, the company decided to donate more than 3,600 pieces of furniture to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

"A week after the storm, we realized that there was going to be a tremendous need to help people rebuild their homes and community centers," Mr. Tisch said. "We made a decision to work with the Mayor's Fund and give them access to the entire building. "

Some of the donated items will be used in temporary housing, while others will be donated to nonprofit organizations that were affected.

"A significant part of the city's rebuilding effort is focused on providing the necessary support to nonprofits and service providers in the most storm-impacted communities," said Mayor's Fund president Megan Sheekey in a written statement.

On Wednesday, some of those furnishings went to the Surfside Senior Center in Coney Island, which was flooded with more than

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two feet of water when the storm hit and has not yet reopened, Mr. Tisch said. The hotel's furnishings are about 10 years old and are in good shape, he added.

"As we started to see the pain and dislocation that Superstorm Sandy was causing, we immediately knew that we needed to donate as much as we could of the pieces that were coming out of the hotel."

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