



Ronnie Owens (left) and Matthew Ford of St. Vincent de Paul move mattresses from the Springfield Regional Medical Center, Fountain Avenue campus, on Friday. More than 100 mattresses were donated to St. Vincent de Paul and Interfaith Hospitality Network. Staff photo by Marshall Gorby

Hospital donates 115 mattresses

Two shelters will now be able to take in more people.

By Everdeen Mason
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield Regional Medical Center is donating more than 100 mattresses to community organizations.

On Friday, St. Vincent de Paul in Dayton picked up about 40 mattresses. Interfaith Hospitality Network in Springfield will pick up 75 mattresses next week.

"Whenever we can, we try to donate," said Steve Arndts, manager of material services for Community Mercy Health partners. "We upgraded in house and therefore there was no need to keep the other mattresses."

In October, the hospital purchased 191 new beds for more than \$2 million. The donated mattresses are only five years old, and have a seven- to 10-year life span, Arndts said.

The shelters are in need of the mattresses.

"We will probably use

them within our shelters, and use them in our transitional and permanent housing," said Elaina Bradley, assistant director of Interfaith Hospitality Network.

The organization's single women and family shelter, and men's shelters are full, and it opened an overflow shelter Dec. 10.

"Forty-four different housing individuals who move out of our shelters can move into our transitional or permanent housing," Bradley said. "And we furnish those units, so the mattresses will help

provide beds."

St. Vincent de Paul will use the mattresses to expand its shelter for women and families and its men's shelter.

"It's really exciting for us, we really appreciate the donation," said Lisa Glandon, director of development and marketing.

St. Vincent de Paul has seen a 30 percent increase in the number of homeless people served, and a 64 percent increase in families with children.

"Certainly these mattresses are a wonderful gift."