

ERIE CANAL HARBOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
A Subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation
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**ECHDC DONOVAN OFFICE BUILDING FURNITURE GIVE AWAY BENEFITS
REGION'S NOT-FOR- PROFITS**

Forty Agencies and Schools Secure Office Furniture and Supplies

The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. (ECHDC) Giant Furniture Giveaway to cash strapped local non-profits at the Donovan State Office Building, confirmed the adage, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." Forty not for profit agencies and area private schools claimed for their use over 1000 pieces of usable office furniture and equipment from the eight story building, once home to 18 State agencies. The opportunity to claim the 50 plus year-old furniture that was declared "junk" by State agencies, reduced the amount going to the trash heap by about one-third. The giveaway paves the way for asbestos remediation, and subsequent demolition of the building late in 2008 for waterfront economic development.

"ECHDC enlisted the help of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County to put out the word to their list of member agencies," stated Jordan Levy, ECHDC Chairman. "We then hired a crew to assist the 40 plus non-profits [recipients] in moving the furniture and filing cabinets from the building to their trucks. We've received several thank you letters that describe how these items are being used, and that makes our effort so worthwhile."

Harvest House Ministry Center outfitted a new computer lab in Good Neighbors Health Care and New Hope Education Center with 30 desks and chairs, file cabinets, storage cabinets, a black board and coat racks. Gary Tatu, Founder and Vice President, Harvest House wrote, "We now have everything we need for our computer lab to help over 175 adult students a year gain better jobs and in turn improve their lifestyles and that of their families. . .Your organization is a great blessing for Harvest House Ministries."

The Valley Community Center is using Donovan Office furnishings to equip classrooms. "Now 50 more children will be able to attend our after school program. Your efforts have added meaning because William Donovan was a native son to our neighborhood," writes Margaret Overdorf, Executive Director.

"This was a good way to utilize an unused asset and begin to have the waterfront redevelopment make an impact on our community. As we continue to prepare the site for the building of the Canalside project, we will continue to find ways that we can make our region stronger and better for all of the people living and working in western New York" said Levy.

Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation is a subsidiary agency of Empire State Development Corporation whose vision is to revitalize Western New York's waterfront and restore economic growth to Buffalo based on the region's legacy of pride, urban significance and natural beauty.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees to marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit www.nylovesbiz.com.

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