

Mitten Tree helps locals keep warm in winter

By Regan Coomer

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Raise your mittens for a good cause.

For the third year in a row the William E. Durr branch of the Kenton County Public Library is inviting

the community to help decorate the Mitten Tree with donations of handmade or new scarves, hats, mittens or gloves.

The tree will be on display and available for donations in the months of November and December.

A portion of items collected will be donated to the Welcome House in Covington, a social service agency that provides emergency assistance with food, personal hygiene products to those in need and an emer-

gency shelter for women and children.

Welcome House also works to secure sufficient income and assist in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing for homeless families.

The remainder of donations will be given to Scarf It Up! of Northern Kentucky, which distributes scarves to multiple agencies in the region.

"It's been amazing," said Welcome House Development Coordinator Ashley

Anderson. "Without some of the things from the Mitten Tree we couldn't help our clients nearly as much. Working with the library this year is definitely going to play a huge role in how many clients we can serve."

Last Christmas the community donated \$500 worth of gloves, hats, mittens and scarves to Welcome House, Anderson said.

"This Christmas is going to be tight with a lot of people this holiday season. We need support from the entire community and the Mitten Tree is just a great way for the library to give back to the community and our clients especially," Anderson said.

In 2008, Welcome House gave emergency assistance with food and hygiene items to over 6,800 adults and children and shelter to 290 adults and children.

"We've been tremendously blessed with the outpouring of support from the community and we hope that continues this holiday season as well," Anderson said.

Durr teen librarian Jessy Griffith is one of the organ-



REGAN COOMER/STAFF

Kenton library patrons can donate hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to the William E. Durr branch's Mitten Tree during the months of November and December. This is the third year the Independence Branch has hosted the Mitten Tree. Proceeds go to Welcome House in Covington and Scarf It Up of Northern Kentucky.

izers of the library's Mitten Tree. A knitter, Griffith said she had been looking for a charity project when she found out about the Covington branch's long-time support of Welcome House.

Griffith said the library accepts hats, gloves and scarves in all sizes and colors for men, women and children. Griffith does ask that handmade items be machine washable. A Scarf It Up of Northern Kentucky bin will also be on display next to the Mitten Tree.

"Even though a pair of gloves is only \$5, that might be \$5 you can't necessarily spare, especially now," she said.