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New Jersey winner picks up camper

by Stu Butcher
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Special to the Tribune

David Gordon, along with his two college age children Gabby and David, came to Chanute this week from New Jersey, and left with a new 2009 Excel camper and a 2009 Ford Super Duty truck given away in a drawing by the Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation.

Gordon said that he had his cell phone with him in the yard on the day of the drawing. He thought it would be just like the previous years when the phone did not ring. When he realized his phone was ringing and it was from a 620 area code it was the call he was waiting for. He knew they did not call the losers and was still in disbelief upon his arrival in Chanute.

The Gordons enjoyed an evening in their camper at the Santa Fe Park campground, before they were given the quick run through of the truck and the fifth wheel hitch. They visited the Tri-Valley Service Center and were greeted with many congratulatory smiles during their brief stay in Chanute.

The winning ticket was drawn Friday, May 15 at the TVDS Administration offices.

This is the eighth annual drawing held by the foundation to raise funds for projects to benefit Tri-Valley. Proceeds from these drawings go to help build homes for clients in Allen, Bourbon, Neosho and Woodson counties.

A total of 2,293 entries were received for this year's drawing. Entries came from nearly every state in the United States. Kansas was one of the top three states for total entries.

The value of the Excel fifth-wheel camper, purchased through Peterson Industries, Smith Center, and a 2009 Ford Super Duty pickup truck, purchased through Merle Kelly Ford, Chanute, plus a turnover ball hitch donated by B & W Custom Truck Beds, Humboldt, is more than \$100,000. Tri-Valley made approximately \$21,000 to go toward construction of new homes in southeast Kansas.

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