

HARTWELL VILLAGE



Marshalls store manager Katie Griffin, right, presents a check for \$10,000 to Lauren Richardson of Our Daily Rest before the new store's grand opening at Hartwell Village.

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Customer Brooke Pruitt of Belton had the honor of cutting the ribbon for the grand opening of Marshalls as the first person in line Thursday morning at Hartwell Village.

Marshalls opens for business in Seneca

BY CAITLIN HERRINGTON
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — With music playing and a prize wheel clicking in the background, soon-to-be customers lined the sidewalk at Hartwell Village for the second time in a week to get a glimpse at Seneca's newest retailer.

Starting with a speech from store manager Katie

Griffin — which included a \$10,000 check presentation to Our Daily Rest — the grand opening ended with the first customer cutting the ribbon and making a beeline inside for her items of choice.

Our Daily Rest executive director Lauren Richardson said she found out about the donation a little more than two weeks ago

and was able to give Griffin a tour of the facility.

"We'll be using it for things like our program materials so everybody has material to use and maybe even for some new stuff," Richardson said. "A lot of our donations are more for operational-type stuff, but this is specifically for the programs. So this is a time when I can bring some

people up and do some client-centric work."

The donations are a staple of Marshalls openings, according to spokeswoman Carly Lucas.

"Marshalls believes in supporting the communities in which we do business on an ongoing basis," Lucas said. "We

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selected Our Daily Rest because of their strong commitment to the Seneca community, and their program aligns with our charitable mission of helping vulnerable families and children access the resources they need to build a better future."

First customer and ribbon-cutter Brooke Pruitt made the trip with some friends from Belton in search of a specific pottery brand, Rae Dunn.

"That's what I came for, and I went straight there," Pruitt said. "We got a military mom mug, a birdhouse, lots of good stuff. It was worth waking up so early."

Others, like Clemson resident Christy Knotts, slept in a bit longer and made shorter trips. She and her daughter, Eriana, were shopping for luggage and clothes for an upcoming fifth-grade field trip.

"I was just excited about us getting a department store, because we don't really have one in our area," Knotts said. The 21,000-square-foot store features

a wide variety of clothing and shoes, as well as a selection of home décor, toys and children's items. The Marshalls grand opening party stretched to 10 p.m. and attracted locals and visitors in the area for Clemson University's graduation.

Though her daughter isn't graduating just yet, Greenville resident Carrie Braun felt compelled to make the trip to the newest Marshalls.

"I'm just a huge Marshalls shopper. I'm sure there's a lot of people here from Greenville, because I recognize some of them," she laughed. "I'm just always looking for great stuff at good prices. I worked at a boutique for a while, and you can find some of that same stuff here at much better prices."

Though he took a break from official ribbon cuttings and didn't stick around to shop, Seneca Mayor Dan Alexander said he was glad to see big names coming into the town.

"Exciting things are happening in our community right now," Alexander. "It's exciting for everybody."