

Women's Life

Dayton woman finalist in national contest

By Kim Margolis | Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 11:43 AM

A Dayton woman is a finalist for a national contest to find the 'most recession-weary living room in the country.'

Valerie Holler says her living room is such a mess she no longer allows visitors in the house, so she hopes to win CSN Stores and celebrity TV designer Angelo Surmelis' contest to get a \$5,000 living room makeover with furniture and design help.

The winner will be announced Jan. 8.

In her application, Holler says, "The couch and love seat we have are hand-me-downs from a prior boss of mine. We use seat savers under the cushions for added support, however, our cat (or Pure Evil as I call him) has found he can squeeze through the corner behind the seat cushion and literally sleep inside the sofa."

Still, she has some sentimental attachment to the furniture, as she states here. "I must say, while I constantly think of one day having a nice living room, my memories stay vivid of my daughter and son-in-law wrestling on the love seat while he tried to take a nap, just about every time they stopped by the house. My son-in-law was in the Army and we lost him due to an explosion in Mosul, with their son being born just one week prior to his death. I'll always remember them both curled up on that loveseat! I would love to be able to make my living room livable once again, and maybe...just maybe Ill be ready to start REALLY living again as well.