

FURNITURE BANK OF CENTRAL OHIO RED CHAIR TIMES

Fall 2015

furniturebankcoh.org



First Downs for Mattresses

One of our goals is to make sure no child has to sleep on the floor. Ashley Furniture HomeStore and Morris Furniture Co. are going to partner with us in a very unique way to help us reach that goal. First Downs for Mattresses will be part of their "Kids Dream Too" program benefiting the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. For each First Down the Buckeyes gain this season, Ashley Furniture HomeStore will donate \$200 in mattresses to the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. Based on the Buckeye's average of first downs last year, Morris Home Furnishings and Ashley Furniture Store estimate they will be donating around \$80,000 in mattresses. This will definitely help us to get closer to our goal of no child sleeping on the floor. We are hopeful this partnership will grow and that other furniture stores will partner with us to strengthen our campaign. To learn more or to support the First Downs for Mattresses campaign, please visit firstdownsformattresses.com.

New Dust Collector

Building more than 6,000 pieces of furniture a year sure makes a lot of dust around our warehouse! We recently purchased two new Laguna dust collectors to help keep our space clean, thanks to a grant from Honda of America. Special Thanks to our friends from the Woodworkers of Central Ohio for helping us with this project.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I reflect on my first 8 months on the job, I am in awe of the support we receive from our community and am inspired by the staff that works tirelessly every day to turn houses into homes. Today, more children and families are living in poverty than any time in our community's history. In fact, the number of children living in poverty rose 28% since 2008. And likewise, our services are needed more than ever.

While it is a challenging time, the Furniture Bank is looking at creative ways to expand and strengthen our services. We are diversifying our funding into three pillars of support: philanthropic, government, and social enterprise. We are expanding our philanthropic portfolio by reaching out to new and existing donors to support us in new opportunities like our "Beds for Kids" campaign and a spring "Bed Race." We are planning to enhance government funding to allow us to grow a new jobs training program which will provide a hand up instead of just a hand out. Lastly, we are pursuing social enterprise opportunities, a new trend among nonprofits, by expanding our online auction into a thrift store model which will allow us to make a surplus to roll directly into our mission.

Social enterprise is a way to apply business principles to a nonprofit organization to generate support to help ensure sustainability. We have been researching this for months with our Strategic Initiatives Committee and feel confident that expanding our current auction model into a thrift store model is the best way to ensure our future. I am very excited about what this will mean for the future of the Furniture Bank and the potential to grow our organization to help even more families. Look for an announcement later this fall about our thrift store grand opening celebration!

Steve

TURNING EMPTY HOUSES INTO HOMES



RED CHAIR TIMES

THRIFT STORE OPENING

We're opening a brand new thrift store! Be on the lookout for our thrift store grand opening announcement later this fall. All profits from the store will help families in severe life crises with free furniture.

Welcome New Office Staff!

A big welcome to our new office staff at the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio! Lisa Gilham, Office Manager, has been with us since April 2015, and Rob Reid, Donation Coordinator, has been with us since May 2015. Lisa and Rob are the friendly voices on the phone when you call to donate your furniture. Dorice Agee, Finance Director, has been with us since May 2015. Dorice makes sure all of our bills are paid and our finances are correct. Welcome Lisa, Rob and Dorice!



Our annual Big Hearts fundraiser presented by Big Lots and Nationwide was a great success this year! We raised more than \$230,000 to help turn empty houses into homes for 800 families. Guests enjoyed the music of the Sly Band, great food including a macaroni and cheese bar, and desserts from Positively Sweet. The event was held at Strongwater Food and Spirits in Franklinton.

PRESENTING SPONSORS

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- Nationwide

GOLD PLUS SPONSORS

- L Brands

GOLD SPONSORS

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- Safelite AutoGlass

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BRONZE PLUS SPONSORS

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BRONZE SPONSORS

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- Hollywood Casino
- Management and Network Solutions
- Nesco Resource
- Positively Sweet LLC
- Sika Corporation
- Willis of Ohio, Inc

SAVE THE DATE



THE 2016 FBCO BED RACE
Mark your calendars for the Bed Race!
May 21, 2016, at Goodale Park
5-person teams, 1 bed to race
More details to follow in early 2016

THANK YOU
3,692
Furniture Donors

January 1st to September 30th, 2015

MARIA'S BIRTHDAY GIFT



Maria just turned 5 years old. For her birthday party, friends and family members each brought a pillow to donate to the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. Together, they were able to collect 33 pillows for worthy families.

ESTATE PLANNING? KEEP US IN MIND



The majority of our furniture comes from individual donations, and we are seeing an increase in the number of calls we receive about

donating people's estates. Recently we got a call from John, a gentleman whose mom had passed and left behind a house full of furniture that he didn't need, so he called to see if we could use it. We were sad for the circumstances of his call, but were thankful that he thought of helping others during this sad time for their family. We went out to the house and collected the furniture, which made it much easier for the family to deal with the estate. Please keep us in mind during your estate planning needs. We can help relieve some of the stress from families dealing with their loss by picking up furniture to give to central Ohio families in need. The other growing trend is planned giving - leaving a philanthropic gift to the Furniture Bank to help needy families turn their houses into homes. To learn more about planned giving or how to donate furniture, please contact our office at 272-9544.

2,805
Families Served
through September 30, 2015



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FurnitureBank
OF CENTRAL OHIO

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614.272.9544

VISIT OUR ONLINE AUCTIONS!
FURNITUREBANKCOH.ORG/AUCTION

Robyn Christy was a live-in nanny in charge of another family's children. Robyn felt blessed that the family welcomed her daughter into their home, affording Robyn time with her daughter during her formative years. Once her employer's children reached school age, Robyn was on her own. She returned to Columbus with her daughter, Ada. That's when it became apparent that her savings would cover initial costs of an apartment, but would not cover the cost of furniture. The Salvation Army stepped in and brought Robyn to the Furniture Bank, where she received 16 pieces of furniture.

The hand up is just what Robyn needed for her and Ada to start their new life. Robyn graduated in March 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Service Management, and Ada is excelling at a school for girls. Robyn moved her life forward, and four years after her visit with us, she graciously donated her still gently used furniture back to the Furniture Bank to benefit another family. She has also been an avid volunteer and helped with many events over the past few years as her way of paying it forward for what she received from FBCO — a fresh start at a new life. Baking has always been a passion of Robyn's since she was a child, so she is thrilled to be opening her own bakery, Positively Sweet. Her bakery's desserts were featured at our Big Hearts event last month.



STAY CONNECTED

