

FURNITURE BANK OF CENTRAL OHIO RED CHAIR TIMES

Fall 2016

furniturebankcoh.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the holiday season approaches, it's natural to reflect on our blessings and remember the things we are grateful to have. But we might not realize how much we take our homes for granted.

Since joining the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio 18 months ago, I have met countless families who are rebuilding their lives. They've worked hard to break the cycle of homelessness and find new living arrangements. But they don't have what they need to make their living space a haven from the outside world.

Home isn't just the basic shelter of four walls and a roof. Home is the couch where a family sits. It's the dining room table where we talk about our daily lives. Home is pictures on the wall, holiday decorations, and the beds we sleep in.

Families need our help to feel safe and comfortable as the holidays approach. And we need your continued support so we can provide them with the things they need.

As you count your blessings this season, I ask you to take note of the things that have turned your living space into a home... and remember those who can't do the same.

Season's Greetings to you and yours,

A Generous Congregation

Since 2014, the Crossroads Church has been a strong supporter of the Furniture Bank. It all started when Furniture Bank board member Brian Poling invited some members of the congregation to attend a volunteer furniture build. The volunteers enjoyed their experience so much that they soon got the rest of the congregation involved!

Since then, their contributions have grown exponentially. We've had volunteers from Crossroads build furniture, clean our trucks, and help out at the Furniture with a Heart thrift store. They've been consistent financial supporters at our Big Hearts event, and at our annual Bed Race. In fact, this year they built a bed for each of their two teams to race and then donated both beds to use again for the 2017 Bed Race.

Thank you to Larry Beal, Michelle Gehrt, and all the wonderful members of the Crossroads congregation. We truly appreciate all you do! www.crossroads.tv



Save the Date for Bed Race 2017

Mark your calendars for the
Furniture Bank's Bed Race May 6th 2017!

For more information - or to check out pictures from last year's race -
visit www.furniturebankcoh.org/bedrace



May 6th



TURNING EMPTY HOUSES INTO HOMES



RED CHAIR TIMES

Our Fall Featured Donor: Maria

Maria just turned 6, but she didn't ask for a party or presents. Instead, she told her friends and family to donate to the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio.

Maria is an exceptional donor, and she doesn't just give on her birthday. Every week she splits her allowance into 3 buckets: save, spend, and donate. Then, once a year, Maria chooses a charity and donates what she can. Her parents, Andrea and Alan, have created a system to help her out. Andrea works for Cardinal Health, which has a donation match program. Andrea and Alan will match what Maria wants to give, then Cardinal Health matches their combined family donation. Thanks to this system, Maria can give four times more than what she could do by herself.

We're lucky to be the recipient of Maria's wonderful birthday wishes. Last year Maria made her 5th birthday special by asking her friends to donate pillows to the Furniture Bank. This year, she asked people to bring sheets. By the end of her birthday, 38 sheet sets had been donated in Maria's name.

Thank you Maria for having such a kind heart. The hard work you've done helps us to turn empty houses into homes!



SIDS Awareness Month

Did you know that Columbus has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is the leading cause of death among infants under 12 months, and the third overall leading cause of infant mortality in the United States.

October is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) awareness month and we are partnering with Molina Health Care to increase safety for infants in central Ohio. Molina Health Care has sponsored our Safe Sleep initiative this year to promote current safe sleep recommendations.

The program provides a safe sleep kit to families with infants when they visit the Furniture Bank. The kit includes a pack n' play, a crib sheet, a sleep sack, and approved pacifier, and literature on the most modern safe sleep practices.

Thanks to this partnership with Molina Health Care we will be able to provide 100 families with safe sleep kits in central Ohio and help lower infant mortality in our area.

Get nifty and thrifty at Furniture with a Heart

Furniture with a Heart - our social enterprise thrift store - feels like a fresh store every day! That's because we stock it with fresh items daily. If you haven't visited us lately, come and see our one of a kind items. You're certain to find something to brighten up your home. All proceeds from the store help central Ohio families in need. Check the back of this newsletter for your exclusive coupon that will take 10% off any one item in the store. Come visit us soon!

Located at
2165 Morse Rd.
Columbus, OH



Unshakeable Faith – Dametrius and Takia’s story

A few weeks ago Dametrius was laid off.

Unable to pay for their apartment, Dametrius, Takia, and their two young sons were evicted.

They lost everything.

They lived in a cheap motel for a few days, then moved in with family members. Eventually their loved ones could no longer put them up, and the family of four found themselves in a local homeless shelter.

But even with their stable home life gone, the family had faith that better times were just around the corner.

That faith impressed their social worker and the people helping them at the shelter. Dametrius and Takia’s family didn’t take time to adjust to their new normal. They worked every day to improve their situation – looking for work and looking for housing. And they took pride in the fact that they did not utilize any additional government assistance.

The family stayed busy, even in their downtime. Takia found strength in her bible, and started reading scripture with other families. Dametrius played basketball with his boys and the other children staying in the shelter.

With a great deal of work – and the help of their social worker – their situation finally began to stabilize. Dametrius found a new job, and soon after the family landed a new apartment.

As they settled into their new place, Dametrius and Takia realized they didn’t feel like they were home. They desperately needed basic housewares and furniture to make their new place livable.

That’s when the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio stepped in.

The Furniture Bank gave the family everything they needed for their new apartment – including beds for the two boys.

Looking back Takia describes the experience as humbling. She recognizes that it taught their family a lot about life, but, “We never lost faith it would all work out.”

The family feels blessed to have this opportunity to start again.

And they have big plans to pay it forward in the future.



Big Hearts Wrap Up

Big Hearts was a big success! We raised more than \$160,000 and had more than 300 attendees. It was great to meet new supporters and see the familiar faces that have supported us for years. Guests bid on silent auction items – including refurbished furniture, autographed sports memorabilia, and sponsored furniture for families. We had wonderful food from Strongwater Food and Sprints and enjoyed the music of the Sly Band.

Thank you so much to our sponsors, our board, and our volunteers for all of your support. We couldn’t do this without you!



How Many Ways Can You Give?

- Host a home goods drive at your work, church, or neighborhood
- Designate us through your workplace giving campaign and see if your employer has a matching gift program
- Volunteer your time at the Furniture Bank or Furniture with a Heart
- Designate The Furniture Bank in your estate plans as a planned gift



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Visit furniturebankcoh.org/store for hours, opening date and more information.



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