

FURNITURE BANK OF CENTRAL OHIO

RED CHAIR TIMES

Summer 2016

furniturebankcoh.org



Thrift Store Volunteers

On Wednesdays, four friends from a card club unpack, sort and clean donated items in the back of our thrift store. Spearheaded by Joyce, whose husband volunteers in our woodshop each week building furniture, Shirley, Liz and Sue catch up with each other and help sort merchandise for our Furniture with a Heart thrift store. All are recently retired and were looking to get involved in the community. Joyce gathered the group and started volunteering this past spring as we prepared to open the store. The four like volunteering because it's a low pressure and fun environment.

By making sure every item on the sales floor has been cleaned and made presentable for sale, they know they are helping to make a difference for families by raising funds for the Furniture Bank's core mission.



You can watch a video about volunteering with us by scanning this code or visiting our website at furniturebankcoh.org/volunteer.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Colin at volunteer@furniturebankcoh.org or by phone at 614.545.3832.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The last few months at the Furniture Bank have been very busy! We opened our Furniture with a Heart thrift store on April 15th, held our inaugural Bed Race on May 21st and are working diligently to serve families in need each and every day.

We are very excited with the initial results from our first social enterprise - our Furniture with a Heart thrift store. You can read more about our store in the article in this newsletter. We have been so pleased with the results that we are looking into additional opportunities to help generate sustaining revenue for the Furniture Bank's core mission of reducing the impact of poverty.

We are working with our partner agencies to enhance services on a program this summer that allows agencies and families to select more or less furniture based on individual families' needs. Currently all families receive 15-17 pieces of furniture regardless of family size or need. The new service will offer four different packages based on needs.

Lastly, we continue to move through our transitional funding with Big Lots. Thanks to generous community support, cost control measures and our new social enterprise, we have ended the first year on solid financial ground. However, our success is based largely on the support of our volunteers. With the impact of poverty reaching more families, we too need more volunteers to help us with our mission. Through our Furniture with a Heart thrift store, we have many new opportunities for volunteers to give back to the community.

Overall, our future looks very promising as we transition into greater self-sustainability. We hope that you will continue to partner with us in this effort.

Steve

TURNING EMPTY HOUSES INTO HOMES



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Client Visits Are Easy

By Wanda, Personal Shopping Volunteer

Think about it. Sitting in a waiting room is not on the top-ten list of favorite things to do. There is apprehension wondering what waits on the other side of the door. At the Furniture Bank, we try to make the visits as easy as possible for families. The showroom arrangement is in an order that resembles the layout of a typical home: living room, bedroom, kitchen, accent pieces and household items. As clients exit the showroom at the end of their appointment, the appreciation is evident. I have noticed many clients will hit our "easy" button that sits by the exit door as they leave. They obviously anticipate a cumbersome process and their surprise is a pleasant one. Every time I hear a client say, "That was easy," I smile too. The feeling is one of satisfaction and determination to keep it as quick and easy as possible.

Welcome

New Board Members

Earlier this year we welcomed four new board members - Lisa Dolan from Strategic Source; Pat Hicks from Outcomes Management Group, Ltd; Erin Siegfried from Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP; and John Snoble from KPMG. We also want to recognize former board members John Hartman, Tom Houle and Alan Veatch for their years of service to the board. Tom served for seven years, including two years as chair; John served for six years; and Alan served for ten years. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio and oversees our activities. Board members volunteer their time to help turn empty houses into homes by leading the organization. Thank you to our former board members and welcome to our four new members!

Miami University Donates 2,000+ Items

In late May, over the course of two weeks, we emptied 800 dorm rooms at Miami University in Oxford, OH. Miami donated more than 2,000 furniture items - dressers, desks and beds that will help families here in central Ohio. Thank you, Miami University, and to our staff who coordinated the project - Kevin, Rob and Chris for all of their hard work!



Ever wanted to buy some of our furniture?

Well, now you can! We are selling limited quantities of our furniture built in our woodshop at our Furniture with a Heart thrift store. Dressers, end tables, kitchen chairs and bed frames are designed, cut and assembled by volunteers in our woodshop. Quantities are limited as inventory allows and families in need will always have first access to our furniture lines. All proceeds go directly to the Furniture Bank's mission of serving families in need.





401 W. Town Street
Columbus, OH

Dress Is
Business Casual

furniturebankcoh.org/bighearts

Big Hearts is our annual fundraising event that raises funds and awareness to turn empty houses into homes for 4,000 families a year. Sponsorships are available. Tickets are \$125 per person – \$100 is tax deductible.

Volunteers are also needed for the event. Tasks include securing silent auction items, setup, registration and checkout at the event. Contact Sarah at srooney@furniturebankcoh.org or 614-545-3833 if you are interested

Other Ways to Support the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio

Donate through your **workplace giving campaign** with Community Shares of Mid-Ohio! When your workplace has their annual workplace giving campaign, you can choose to designate the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio and give through payroll deduction. You can also designate us through any United Way campaign, as well.



Text to Donate

Text **FBCO** to **33-733** and make a financial donation to the Furniture Bank.

Or go online and donate to furniturebankcoh.org/donate.

Bed Race Raises \$14,000+!

Thank you to all of our 18 teams, 90 racers, our sponsors Hollywood Casino Columbus, BMI Federal Credit Union and Schneider Downs and our nearly 150 donors who helped us raise more than \$14,000 for families on Saturday, May 21st at our Bed Race!

Teams rented or built and decorated beds and raced up Goodale Avenue in the Short North. 35 races were run, with McCray's Dream Team winning it all in the inaugural bed race. Other top finishers included NAI Ohio Equities, KPMG and Sauder Primary Street. Bed decorations included faux money, Legos, guitars, Dory and Nemo costumes, plaid shirts and construction hats, fruit, hula skirts and leis, and pink balloons.

Thank you to Mason, Jim, John and Liz for building and painting the five rental beds for the race.

Visit the Bed Race site at furniturebankcoh.org/bedrace to see more pictures. Start planning your costume and stay tuned for next year's race in spring 2017!



Amish Originals Donates Truck

Thank you to Amish Originals for donating a truck to us! We now have 10 trucks in our fleet to help pick up, move and deliver furniture to families in need.



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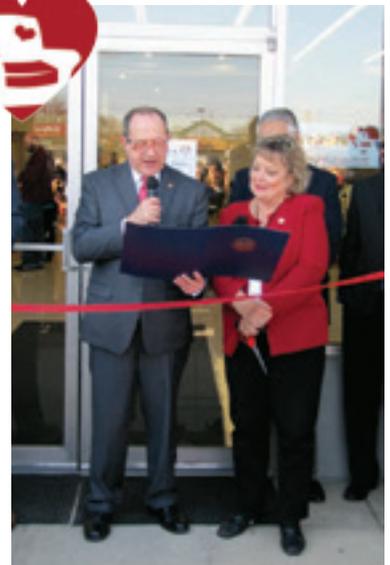
VISIT OUR THRIFT STORE PAGE! FURNITUREBANKCOH.ORG/STORE

Thrift Store Update

The thrift store is now open! Our grand opening weekend April 15th and 16th was a huge success. In the first two days the store generated \$50,000 in sales. All proceeds from the store are reinvested in the Furniture Bank's mission to serve families in need with furniture.

Thank you to our sponsors who helped provide generous start-up funding for the store - American Electric Power, The Columbus Foundation, Huntington Bank, L Brands, Nationwide, Safelite AutoGlass, The Siemer Family Foundation, The Talmage Family Foundation, and The Upper Arlington Rotary Club. Another big thank you to volunteers from Crossroads Church, Safelite AutoGlass, Molina Health Care, BMW, Nationwide and many individuals who helped prepare the store and worked the opening weekend.

We welcome the new retail staff to the Furniture Bank family.



State Representatives David Leland and Cheryl Grossman were on hand with a proclamation at the ribbon cutting ceremony on April 15th.

Don't forget to follow the store on Facebook, Twitter and visit our website, furniturewithaheart.org for complete information.

 facebook.com/FurnitureWithAHeart  [@FurnitureWHeart](https://twitter.com/FurnitureWHeart)



STAY CONNECTED

