

# TURNING EMPTY HOUSES INTO HOMES

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www.FurnitureBankCOH.org



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial stability continues at the Furniture Bank through philanthropic support from the community, balanced with earned income sources.

The annual gala "Big Hearts for Empty Houses" presented by Big Lots, broke records again in 2013, raising \$1.1 million to support operating costs, as well as provide a reserve for long-term financial stability.

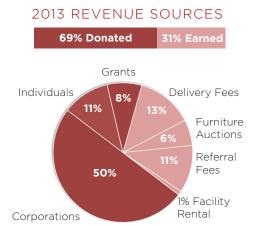


The Furniture Bank was honored with the Columbus Foundation Award in 2013 which included a \$25,000 grant that will help us meet our 2014 goals.



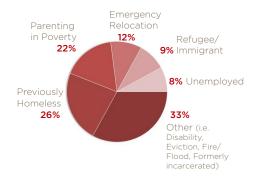
Earned income generated from fees for referral, delivery, and priority pickup, together with revenue from furniture auctions, covered all administrative and overhead costs in 2013. This permitted 100% of all donor dollars to go directly to program support.

Donations to the Furniture Bank from civic-minded individuals, corporations, community groups and foundations illustrate their deep commitment to addressing poverty in our community. We promise to be good stewards of these gifts of hope and home.



### **FAMILIES & AGENCIES**

Individuals and families need the help of the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio for a variety of reasons. These are some of the leading causes, but the list continues to arow.



We work with nearly 200 collaborative partners - social service agencies. churches, schools, special interest groups or personal advocates who rely on the Furniture Bank when their clients need furniture. At times these collaborative partners are affected by economic conditions.

To address funding and budget challenges experienced by our referral sources, we work to secure funding to provide emergency assistance to help ensure families receive the furniture they need.

- Families served in 2013: 4,110
- Average waiting period: 3-5 days
- 81% of families served report annual incomes of less than \$12,000.

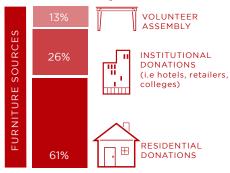
Most of the client individuals and families served in 2013 live in or near downtown Columbus, where poverty and homelessness are at the highest levels.

Regardless of the reasons why or how they come to us, we recognize it is more than just furniture we provide. We furnish hope - TURNING EMPTY HOUSES INTO HOMES.



## **FURNITURE FOR FAMILIES**

Collecting and delivering gently used furniture to families living in unfurnished or sparsely furnished housing is the very core of our mission. Furniture built by our volunteers ensures every family served receives the essential items needed to furnish their home, despite fluctuations in donated inventory.



Our volunteers are one of our most highly valued resources. Whether they build furniture, assist in the office, serve on the board or help at our events, their impact can only be partially measured in statistics. Their contributions are a priceless gift to the community as they advance our mission each and every day.



We make donating furniture **easy** by offering Free Pick-Up from residences within a 16-mile radius and offer low cost options for weekend or longer distance service. In 2013, we picked up furniture donations from more than **8,100** residential homes. We work hard to make donating a positive and rewarding experience for our furniture donors.



During their visit to our warehouse showroom, individuals and families select 13–15 essential furniture items. **98%** of the time, their furniture "follows them home" through our 24-hour delivery service.

We continue to rely on our relationships with hotels, motels, educational institutions and retailers for bulk donations of items such as mattresses, tables, chairs and dressers. We also welcome furniture donations from corporate office renovations, some of which we convert into operating funds through our online auctions.

#### 2013 FURNITURE DISTRIBUTION

6,007 Mattresses

5,385 Dressers

**3,692** Sofas

3,022 Living Room Chairs

5,971 Living Room Tables

**2,540** Lamps

2,335 Kitchen Tables

8,497 Kitchen Chairs

17,751 Less-essential items

## **VOLUNTEERS**

## Total 2013 Volunteer hours: 29,173

Volunteers build bed frames, dressers, kitchen, coffee and side tables to ensure families have the essential pieces to establish their home.

In 2013, members of the **Woodworkers** of Central Ohio, corporate employees, schools and civic groups built nearly **5,000** items of furniture, most of them in our in-house woodshop. A few offsite build events took place at corporate locations, including Big Lots, whose employees built 252 tables in one day.

Our unique partnership with Marion Correctional Institution continues to produce furniture while teaching marketable skills. Inmates volunteered **9,911** hours to build **2,616** items of furniture.

Interns with the Franklin County Job & Family Services Work Experience Program supplemented our office staff while learning valuable skills that lead to self-sufficiency.

The contributions of the many dedicated members of the Furniture Bank's Board of Directors and committee members cannot be overstated. They set the direction of the organization, champion our cause, and ensure the organization continues to serve our community, today and in the future.



#### **LOOKING FORWARD: 2014 & BEYOND**

We are the largest free furniture bank in Ohio and the second largest in the nation. We are proud to have made an impact on the lives of 4,110 families in 2013, but we know the need for free furniture is even greater. Our vision is that all families in our community live in furnished homes. This vision compels us to work ever harder to TURN EMPTY HOUSES INTO HOMES in 2014.

## **2014 STRATEGIC GOALS**

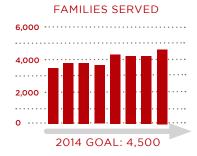
4,500 Families served
63,500 Furniture items donated
7,500 Furniture items built by volunteers
9,100 Residential homes donating
30,000 Volunteer hours donated
10-15% Increased community awareness

We will increase our efforts to expand awareness and collect furniture, with a focus on making it easy and rewarding to donate.



We will continue to serve our referring agencies by being the **organization of choice** when it comes to providing free furniture assistance. That means prompt and convenient scheduling, ensuring sufficient inventory of items desired by clients, and same day furniture delivery.

Recent statistics on poverty in Central Ohio tell us the need is very great - as many as 10,000 families live in severe poverty. Our goal is to serve more of those families.



With the help of our furniture donors, financial supporters, volunteers and friends, we are confident we will reach our 2014 targets.