

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TOM GAGHAN

The Cleveland Furniture Bank (CFB) recently completed its sixth year of serving the needy of Northeast Ohio. It seems each year has provided new challenges and new agencies wanting to refer clients to our program.

Again the number of agencies utilizing our services increased 5% from the previous year and now stands at 333. CFB served a record number of clients and gave away over 13,000 pieces of furniture valued at almost \$675,000. However, during the same period, our donations of furniture declined by 18%. Although we were able to serve those in need this year, a continuing decline in donations of good, usable furniture may not make that possible in the future.

You can help by donating furniture you may no longer need and by telling your friends and neighbors about the Cleveland Furniture Bank. Helping us get the word out is one way to insure those in need we see next year will receive what they need.

This year was especially exciting as we initiated a new effort: BEDS FOR CLEVELAND KIDS.

It became evident to us over the last couple of years that the client families referred to us included many children under the age of 18. Most of these kids were sleeping in less than ideal conditions, including on a bare floor with only a blanket. CFB had never been able to provide more than one bed to each family.

We located a manufacturer in Strongsville that is providing beds and mattresses at a very good price. Even so, each set we provide costs \$100.

With the help of several foundations and some corporate support, we were able to take the first step toward providing a bed and mattress to every child of the families we serve. In the first 3 1/2 months of the program, we have given away more than 350 beds and mattresses to the children in need.

However, we need your support to make sure that this important effort can continue in the future.

We are asking you to consider a donation to the BEDS FOR CLEVELAND KIDS program. For each \$100 you donate, you will be helping one child to sleep in a comfortable bed. Research has shown that children that get a good night's sleep do better in school and have less medical problems. Our theme is the "Three R's" – Rested, Refreshed and Ready to Learn.



BEDS FOR CLEVELAND KIDS



Fundraising for our vital Beds for Cleveland Kids program is ongoing. Our goal for 2012-2014 is to raise \$200,000 and we're asking for help from the business community and general public to contribute to this quality-of-life mission.

"In Northeast Ohio, thousands of children are sleeping on a floor, or on a blanket on the floor," says CFB Executive Director Tom Gaghan. "Our goal is to provide every child of every family that's referred to us through the participating agencies a brand new bed and mattress to sleep on."

The demand is high. Every day, 10 families visit the Cleveland Furniture Bank searching for kid-sized beds. It's a simple necessity and every donation means a peaceful night's sleep for those in need.

WKYC Channel 3 visited our Thrift Store and interviewed Tom Gaghan for a special segment, giving Cleveland viewers a glimpse of the challenges the CFB faces. To see this touching segment, visit our website at www.clevelandfurniturebank.org and click on the News tab, then WKYC NEWS.

Every \$100 you donate can buy a mattress and bed for a child. If you are interested in making a donation, please complete and mail back the enclosed envelope or donate online via our website at www.clevelandfurniturebank.org.

CLEVELAND FURNITURE BANK ANNOUNCES SHORTAGE OF TABLES, CHAIRS, COUCHES AND KITCHENETTES: DONATIONS NEEDED DURING UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON



As we approach the holiday season, the Cleveland Furniture Bank announces a critical need for couches, tables, chairs and kitchenettes, according to Tom Gaghan, CFB Executive Director.

"It appears that fewer people are buying homes and moving, and Hurricane Sandy has certainly made it even more difficult here in Northeast Ohio. We are experiencing a need for items that has reached an emergency level," said Gaghan. "In fact, it is so serious, we are asking our community to fill the pipeline now to help those in serious need of kitchen furniture and couches during the holiday season even though we know donations typically lag during this time of year."

According to Gaghan, there are two ways to donate furniture to the Cleveland Furniture Bank. "First, you can call (216) 459-2265 ext. 101. The second way is to go online and schedule your pick up at



www.clevelandfurniturebank.org." There is a \$20 pick-up fee.

"Items that no longer have meaning to you can mean the world to a child, family or individual in need. By accepting donations, we reduce landfill space by millions of pounds," said Gaghan. "So please help us recycle the quality, gently-used household furniture you no longer need and help someone else."

The Cleveland Furniture Bank is located at 6610 Biddulph Road, Cleveland, Ohio, 44144. Established in 2006, CFB provides gently used furniture to those in need. The CFB Thrift Store serves more than 50,000 consumers every year, while the Cleveland Furniture Bank provides over 3,000 families or individuals with furniture each year.

CORPORATE SPONSORS HELP 'FURNISH SOME LOVE'

The Cleveland Furniture Bank could not achieve its goals without the generous assistance and donations of our many corporate sponsors. By becoming a sponsor of the Cleveland Furniture Bank, you'll help those in need build new lives and create increased visibility for your business.



The Cleveland Furniture Bank depends on all sectors of the business community to lend their support: retailers, realtors, hotels/motels, manufacturers, and providers of services such as transportation, information systems and marketing/promotion.

For example, Acumen Solutions, a leader in Enterprise Cloud Transformation, recently donated more than 500 man-hours and numerous resources to design, build and launch the CFB's new website, which now helps support our future growth and new programs.

The new website, which went live in early September, highlights CFB'S Thrift Store and also features online donation scheduling. The first day the new site went live, we scheduled our first online donation pickup.

Other corporate sponsors which have donated furniture, financial assistance or services include Levin Furniture, Sedlak Interiors, Associated Estates Realty, Integrity Asset Management, Materion Corporation, Swagelok, Dollar Bank, Forest City Enterprises, Jones Day, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Gannett WKYC-TV, and Rocky River Presbyterian Church.

Thanks also go to our many foundation sponsors, including Bruening Foundation, United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland, the Reuter Foundation and Dominion Gas Foundation.

These corporate sponsors enable the Cleveland Furniture Bank to serve more than 300 agencies and organizations referring more than 3,000 needy individuals and families each year. Participating agencies are responsible for verifying the needs of their clients to ensure that the Furniture Bank's resources are being used to serve those most in need.

If your company or organization would like to become a sponsor, please call 216-459-2265 or go online to www.clevelandfurniturebank.org and fill out the form on the Contact tab.

Please help us to raise awareness and "like" the Cleveland Furniture Bank on Facebook.

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We appreciate your support!