



Fall 2011

News from the Cleveland Furniture Bank

## **A Letter from the Cleveland Furniture Bank Executive Director, Tom Gaghan**

As the Cleveland Furniture Bank begins its sixth year of serving the needy of Northeast Ohio, we are thankful to everyone that has supported the mission not only this year, but throughout these past years. We thank our donors—those who donated furniture, both individuals and businesses, those who made financial contributions to help us serve the needy, and those who supported us in many other ways. Your support of the Cleveland Furniture Bank really helps those in need.

CFB has served over 15,000 needy individuals and families and provided over 55,000 pieces of furniture to them. Yet, many of those served still did not get everything they needed. The ones least served are the children of the families referred to us. Although we have been blessed with the support of furniture retailers, especially Levin Furniture, who provides CFB with over 2,000 mattresses each year, we are still unable to provide more than one mattress to each family. And since very few of the mattresses donated are smaller sizes, the children are left wanting.

Because we believe no child should have to sleep on the floor, CFB is introducing a "Beds for Cleveland Kids" program. Through this effort, new or slightly used beds and mattresses, will be given to the children of the needy families referred to us. Each year, over 1,200 children are represented by the people served by the Cleveland Furniture Bank, but even more need a bed.

We have located companies willing to work with us to provide beds and mattresses at cost. However, the total cost of serving 1,200 children is estimated to exceed \$150,000 each year.

Thanks to the generosity of those that attended CFB's annual fundraiser, we have been able to establish a fund to kick off this program. Several foundations are being approached to provide additional support. We are appealing to everyone who has supported CFB in the past to consider this new effort. A donation of \$140 will purchase one bed and one mattress for a child.

We recognize we are living in challenging economic times. However, if you can help us buy one bed and mattress, one less child in Northeast Ohio will have to sleep on the floor. Any amount will help a child of a family in need.

As you consider a donation in support of our mission, I want to assure you of CFB's status as a non-profit. You may have heard earlier this year that the IRS was revoking the status of hundreds of thousands of non-profits. The Cleveland Furniture Bank was not one of those. We continue to meet all of the requirements established by the IRS.

Again, the needy of Northeast Ohio are thankful for your past support. We look forward to your continuing support as the Cleveland Furniture Bank continues to provide assistance to the needy in our communities, right here at home.

Warm Regards,

Cleveland Furniture Bank

## **BEDS FOR CLEVELAND KIDS**

There are thousands of children living in Northeast Ohio who do not have a bed. The Cleveland Furniture Bank's *Beds for Cleveland Kids* campaign is an effort to provide a mattress, box spring and bed frame to every child in Northeast Ohio who is in need.

We hope to provide a new mattress set and bed frame for the children of the families referred to us. Gently used beds will also be available.

You can help by making a financial contribution to the Cleveland Furniture Bank. Donations of beds, especially twin beds are always welcome.



Interested donors may contact the Cleveland Furniture Bank (216) 459-2265, ext. 101 to donate child-sized beds. Cash donations may be made online at [www.clevelandfurniturebank.org](http://www.clevelandfurniturebank.org).

Too many Northeast Ohio children sleep without a bed, some are sleeping on the floor every night.... Please help them with a donation.



## An Evening in Oz

The Cleveland Furniture Bank held its third annual *There's No Place Like Home* benefit on September 16, 2011.

Over two hundred and fifty guests attended the fundraiser dinner and auction at the Galleria at Erieview. Guests bid on over 60 auction items and visited the "Two Witches Wine Pull" while our musical guest, Sister Mojo and Voodoo Groove entertained the crowd. We were pleased to welcome Robin Swoboda as our event emcee.

The Furniture Bank is very grateful for everyone who supported our 2011 event. We would like to extend a special Thank You to the wonderful group of corporations and private donors who helped to make this event a success:

### GOLDEN ROAD SPONSOR

Levin Furniture

### WONDERFUL WIZARD SPONSORS

Swagelok Company Accenture

### THOUGHTFUL & COURAGEOUS HEART SPONSORS

Forest City Enterprises, Inc Materion Corporation Wells Fargo

### PRECIOUS TOTO SPONSORS

Acumen Solutions Associated Estates Realty Corporation  
Deloitte Services LP Dominion Ernst & Young LLP  
Ferro Foundation First Energy Foundation  
Gary & Eileen Leidich Integrity Asset Management  
Jones Day The Lubrizol Corporation The MetroHealth System  
Michael Leichner PolyOne Corporation  
Sealy Stevens Strategic Communications  
The Barrel Room Winery The Plain Dealer Towers Watson

### CHARITABLE COMPANIONS

Applied Industrial Technologies Jackson Lewis LLP  
Medical Mutual of Ohio Park-Ohio Holdings Corp Ratliff & Taylor

### FRIENDS OF THE CLEVELAND FURNITURE BANK

Marc S. Byrnes, Richard & Jean Hipple, Robert Levin,  
Richard W. Pogue, Esq., Andrew Rayburn & Pat Catan's

Thank you to those who donated their time and talent to help make our Evening in Oz a success:

Jean Grampa, Theresa Maxwell, Sister Mojo and the Voodoo Groove, Michele & Bob Ebsch, Dan High, Marie Jones, Cheryl Klipfell, Cynthia Rickey and Terri Simeone



## Your donation leaves a lasting impact....

When you make a donation to the Cleveland Furniture Bank you are helping the Greater Cleveland community in several ways. Each year we are providing thousands of Northeast Ohio residents in need with basic items such as a bed, a table or a chair to help them turn their house into a home.

We serve qualified individuals referred to us by **over 300 participating agencies** and organizations throughout Northeast Ohio. These clients include but are not limited to:

- Individuals with mental or physical challenges ready to live on their own
- People impacted by personal disasters, like the home explosion on the near West Side last year and the flood victims in Lake County a few years ago.
- Women and their young children being relocated out of an abusive relationship.
- Veterans that have been recovering from traumatic experiences they have endured in Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam.
- Young adults aging out of the foster care system who are now on their own



Two thirds of all furniture that is collected goes to needy individuals and families. Many items donated to the CFB are not usable in our mission to provide basic home furnishings to families. Those items are

sold through our associated **Thrift Store** located adjacent to the Furniture Bank. Our Thrift Store provides a wide selection and price range of furniture, mattresses, appliances, clothing and household items for local residents on a budget. Profits from these sales are used to cover most of the Furniture Bank's operating costs.

Finally, by collecting and redistributing your gently used furniture to those in need, the Furniture Bank is **preventing over one million pounds of landfill waste each year.**

CFB's FREE furniture pickup area includes Cuyahoga and areas in Lake, Lorain, Geauga, Medina and Summit counties. Interested donors may schedule a furniture pickup by calling (216) 459-2265 ext. 101 or visit [www.clevelandfurniturebank.org](http://www.clevelandfurniturebank.org) and click on the "Donors" tab to fill out an online form.

### THRIFT STORE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### DONATIONS ACCEPTED:

Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### CONTACT:

216-459-2265, EXT. 108



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

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**We appreciate your support!**