

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2019



COMPASSION

is the heartbeat
of humanity.

Frank Rogers, Jr.



HopeNow Furniture Bank of Knox County

was founded in 2005 with a critical and unique mission.

We collect donated, gently-used furniture and distribute it to families who cannot afford to furnish their homes. Families are eligible if they are Knox County residents with income low enough to qualify for food stamps or Medicaid assistance.

These families are our neighbors who need our help because of circumstances that make them unable to afford even the most basic furniture for their homes. They are in need because of: unemployment, homelessness, mental/physical disability, domestic violence, fire/flood/bedbugs, divorce, death in the family, being veterans in need, and low-income senior citizens.

HIGHLIGHTS OF HOPENOW FURNITURE BANK'S OPERATIONS IN 2019:

- Served **259** families (**656** individuals: 311 adults and 295 children). **44%** of households had a disabled member, including **12** disabled veterans. **11%** had previously been homeless and **10%** were dealing with death in the family or divorce. The average monthly household income was **\$735.00**.
- Distributed **2378** furniture pieces and **797** bags/boxes of household goods including: **344** beds, **158** couches, **173** living room chairs, **169** kitchen tables, and **163** dressers. Provided each household with an average of **9** pieces of furniture and **3** large boxes/bags of household items. The furniture distributed had a value of over **\$91,000**.



- We were nominated for the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Environmental Award in 2018 and 2019. Unneeded furniture that is recycled to our clients reduces dumping in our landfills. Although this isn't our primary mission, it is a significant consequence of our operation. In 2019 the volume of this recycled furniture would fill over **20.5 semi-trailers (a 28% increase over 2018)**.
- Received 601 donations of furniture in 2019. Two-thirds were drop-off donations, saving us truck and payroll expenses that are only 50% covered by our \$20 pickup fee. Donated furniture had a value of over \$96,000.



- HopeNow FB negotiated a new partnering arrangement with Job & Family Services of Knox County. For each family with children, J&FS now pays HopeNow an amount that varies by the number of children in the family. Most families seeking our help are also participants in J&FS programs, so the funds we receive have been crucial in stabilizing HopeNow's budget.



- Completed the insulation of our warehouse with a grant from Ariel Foundation. Our volunteers are now able to work comfortably without freezing fingers during the winter months. Thank you, Ariel!



- An Ariel Foundation grant provided funds for our woodshop to build six 8x18, 4 ft. high, 2-tier shelving units that allowed more efficient storage of couches and other large furniture pieces. These double our storage space for furniture. Our volunteers also built many bed platforms, kitchen tables (**38**), and even dressers (**16**) when our inventory ran low. **Brenneman Lumber** provides the lumber for our projects.

- New Truck Logo fundraiser project gives businesses the opportunity to have their company name and logo on the side of our truck for a donation of \$250 a year. Their names get frequent exposure as our hauling truck travels around the county.
- We coordinated with local churches and organizations to hold special "drives" for needed household items such as bedding linens, pillows, kitchen appliances, etc. This community support is so greatly appreciated.



To schedule a furniture pickup, go online to <http://www.hopenowfurniturebank.org> and complete a pickup request form, OR call HopeNow FB's donation phone number at (740) 358-2998 and leave a message. Furniture can also be dropped off at our warehouse (Tuesdays 1-3:30 and Thursdays 10-12:30).

2019 Major contributors (over \$1,000):

Ariel Corporation (includes use of its warehouse)
Ariel Foundation
Brenneman Lumber Company (provides lumber for woodshop)
Denison University
Elks of Mount Vernon #140
Faith Lutheran Church Mission Fund
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Greg Brigham

Note: In 2019 donations from our annual appeal letter were only half of what they were in 2018. This was a direct result of the tax law changes in 2017 that were devastating to charitable organizations. We are now more than ever dependent on your generosity.

OUR VOLUNTEERS – The Heart of our organization!

HopeNow Furniture Bank's operation is run by a small group of approximately three dozen dedicated volunteers who provided more than **10,000 hours of service in 2019**. For more information on volunteering, go to <http://www.hopenowfurniturebank.org> or call our office at 740-392-3155.



Fondly remembering Jane Stewart

Jane was one of our original founding Board members responsible for starting and overseeing our households goods section for many years. We are so thankful for her support and miss her friendship.

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HopeNow
Furniture Bank
of Knox County



Helping Our Neighbors in Need

Thank
you 

Johnny's Mattress & Furniture
Knox County Foundation
Peoples Bank of Marietta
Peters Creek Fund
Ramser Family Fund
Welsh Hills School

