HopeNow Furniture Bank of Knox County

Helping Our Neighbors in Need

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2017

1025 South Main St., Mount Vernon, OH 43050 - 740-392-3155 - www.hopenowfurniturebank.org

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

HopeNow Furniture Bank of Knox County has a unique mission. Our organization collects gently-used furniture from donors and distributes it to families living in poverty or need-level circumstances. Families are eligible if they are Knox County residents and have income low enough to qualify for food stamps or Medicaid assistance. Our goal is to help *make a house a home* for those Knox County families who cannot afford even the most basic furniture. Families and their children need our help for a variety of conditions, including:

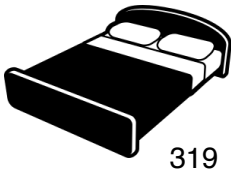
- Previously homeless, eviction
- Unemployed or under-employed
- Mental or physical disability
- Domestic violence

- House fire, flooding, mold, bedbugs
- Death in family or divorce
- Veterans in need
- Low-income elderly

HOPENOW FURNITURE BANK OPERATIONS IN 2017

215 families were served, including **337 adults** and **278 children**. Each household was provided with an average of **7.5 pieces of furniture** and 2 large boxes/bags of household items. **54%** of households **included a disabled member**, **5** of which were **veterans**. **20%** of households had a **senior member over 65**. The average monthly household income was **$848.00**.

We distributed:



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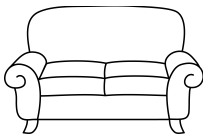

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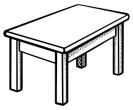

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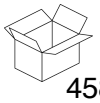
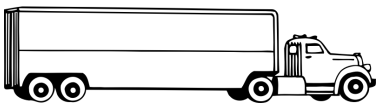


458 boxes/bags of household goods

Furniture represented a volume equal to **17 semi-trailer truck loads.**



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

- Received over $12,000 in contributions, the highest ever, as a result of our annual fundraising appeal letter.
- Funded a new paid Executive Director position through grants from Ariel Foundation, the Community Foundation, Burgett Family Foundation and Arlene & Richard Landers Foundation
- Created two crew positions to pickup furniture donations, paid for by furniture pickup fees
- Created a new volunteer Office Manager position
- Purchased two new laptops with funds from the Harcourt Parish grant
- Streamlined HopeNow F.B.'s website for easier editing and created an online form for donations via PayPal

- Purchased newer box truck with lift gate with grant funds from the Community Foundation
- Installed a dust collection system in our wood-shop with grant funds from Ariel Foundation
- Reorganized our warehouse for better efficiency in managing furniture inventory
- Volunteers built dozens of bed platforms of various sizes and tables for clients when inventory was low. They also made hundreds of wooden toys from scraps to sell at community festivals to help cover wood-shop expenses

COMMUNITY PARTNERING - SERVING FAMILIES IN NEED

Churches and local agency-based organizations in Knox County **referred 40 low-income families** in 2017 to HNFB for furniture assistance. These families totaled **20%** of all families helped by HNFB. The rest of the families were self-referred and were required to have their income and Knox County residency verified to receive assistance.

Agency-based organizations: Behavior Health Partners, Interchurch Social Services of Knox Co., Children's Services, Job & Family Services, New Directions Women's Shelter, American Red Cross of Knox Co., Knox County Veterans Services, Area on Aging, Midwest Innovations, and local churches

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Major Financial Contributors: The mission of HopeNow Furniture Bank was generously supported in 2017 by financial donations from numerous individuals, businesses, churches, and service organizations. This support was critical in maintaining our Services.

- Ariel Corporation & Ariel Foundation
- Arlene & Richard Landers Foundation
- Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox Co.
- Elks of Mount Vernon #140
- Faith Lutheran Church
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- Fraternal Order of Eagles #760
- Gay Street United Methodist Church
- Harcourt Parish Episcopal Church
- Mulberry United Methodist Church
- Soroptimists of Mount Vernon & Knox County

In-Kind Contributors: HopeNow Furniture Bank relies on in-kind donations to provide free furniture and household goods to Knox County families who cannot afford to furnish their homes. In 2017 we received donated furniture from **498 donors**. We offer a pick-up service for those donors who cannot drop off their donations at our warehouse. Pickups are done on Saturdays for a *nominal fee of $20.* To schedule a furniture pickup, donors can go online at http://www.hopenowfurniturebank.org to complete a *pickup request form*. They can also call HNFB at (740) 358-2998 and leave a message. Furniture can be dropped off at our warehouse located at 1025 South Main Street in Mount Vernon during warehouse hours (Tuesday 1-3:30 and Thursday 10-12:30). Major in-kind contributors included:

- Brenneman Lumber Co. (provided lumber)
- Connell's Home Furnishings
- Johnny's Mattress
- Mindy's Ohio Mattress
- Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- Templed Hills Campground

OUR VOLUNTEERS - THE HEART AND SOUL OF HOPENOW FURNITURE BANK

HopeNow Furniture Bank's operation is run by a small group of approximately three dozen dedicated volunteers who provided **more than 12,000 hours of service** in 2017. For information on joining us in our mission, go to the Volunteer tab on our website.

Board of Directors: Art Schad, Executive Director; Steve Organ, President; Wayne Dunlop, Vice President; Shelley Grubb, Treasurer; Beverly Actis, Operations Manager; Anita Anderson; Donna Campbell, Office Manager; Lee Dunlop, Media & Publicity Manager; Shawn Kendall, Events Manager; Ron MeHarry; Robert Ready, Warehouse Manager; Cindy Sperry