

# 2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

## HOPENOW FURNITURE BANK OF KNOX COUNTY

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### Our Mission:



HopeNow Furniture Bank of Knox County collects donated gently used furniture and distributes it to families in Knox County who cannot afford to furnish their homes. Families are eligible if they are Knox County residents with an income low enough to qualify for food stamps or Medicaid assistance. These families cannot afford even the most basic furniture for their homes because of conditions such as: unemployment, homelessness, mental/physical disability, domestic violence, fire/flood/bedbugs/mold, divorce, and death in the family.

HopeNow FB operates on an annual budget completely funded by donations from individuals and groups within Knox County who share with us a passion to serve the neediest. Our annual mail campaign invites our friends to support the ongoing operational costs of HopeNow Furniture Bank. All that we do is completely free to our clients through the generous support of our donors.

## Highlights of 2022

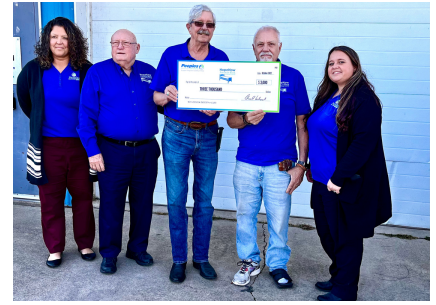
- **HopeNow Furniture Bank served 166 families of 372 individuals: 237 adults and 135 children. 68 of households had a disabled member, including 4 disabled veterans, 14 families had previously been homeless, 10 families reported bedbug or mold problems, while 3 were domestic violence victims**

**HopeNow Furniture Bank distributed 1432 furniture pieces and 628 bags/boxes of household goods including: 210 beds of all sizes, 111 couches, 191 living room chairs, 78 kitchen tables, and 98 dressers.**

**HopeNow Furniture Bank provided** each household with an average of **9.5** pieces of furniture and four large boxes/bags of household items, including basics such as toasters, mixers, pots and pans, dishes, silverware, microwaves, crock pots, etc. The furniture distributed was valued at **\$77,467.00** (used furniture pricing).

- HopeNow Furniture Bank Board of Directors approved two new programs to strengthen our service to our most needy clients. The HNFB Board of Directors approved a plan in January to develop a “**Stock the Shelves**” grant writing program to secure funds to purchase needed items so that the agency could provide all that was needed by clients. While the donation model of securing needed items is still the primary source for meeting needs, the “**Stock the Shelves**” pilot project was needed to fill in when donations are not sufficient.

- Among the generous grant donors to “**Stock the Shelves**” were Knox County Foundation, United Way of Knox County, Richard and Arlene Landers Foundation, Peoples Bank of Marietta, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Park National Bank as well as individual contributions to “**Stock the Shelves**”.
- Among the items purchased include microwaves, pots and pans, electric mixers, toasters, crock pots, coffee pots, box fans, miscellaneous kitchen utensils, bedding such as sheets, pillows, blankets, kitchen and bath towels.



- “**Beds for Kids**” was initiated with three grants for a special program so that every needy child would have their own bed. The program provided a new bed frame, foundation and mattress, sheets, pillow and pillow case as well as a comforter. The Women United grant, Knox County Youth in Philanthropy grant and Energy Cooperative Operation Roundup grant enabled Hope Now Furniture Bank to purchase box spring foundations, mattresses, sheets, pillow and pillow case as well as a comforter for the kids. HNFB normally distributes more than 140 single beds and bedding per year from our generously donated used inventory. When donations do not fill our demand, we find it necessary to purchase what is needed. We are always seeking gently used beds, mattresses and bedding of all sizes to meet this urgent need.

- **A total of \$27,342.31 was expended to purchase needed items for these two worthwhile programs.**



- Community partnering continues with Knox County Job & Family Services (JFS): Continuing through our second contract, the number of JFS clients we serve has increased significantly. We are receiving subsidies from Knox County JFS based on the number of children in the household. These funds are critical to our financial stability, and we find that our help is more efficient when working through an agency. One of our goals for the upcoming year is to work out similar partnerships with other local agencies whose clients come to Hope Now Furniture Bank for much needed furniture and housewares.

- **Woodshop Productions:** Volunteers continue to upgrade and re-organize the woodshop area that provides efficiencies in storage for all workshop supplies. This year they continued to build dressers, smaller kitchen tables, and bed frames in single, double, queen and king sizes, all from lumber donated by Brenneman Lumber Company. Scraps are used to make toys for school Santa Sales.



- Our Truck Logo project added more local business names and logos in 2022 to the side of our truck for an annual donation of \$250. The truck gets frequent exposure as we do furniture pickups across the county, and HopeNow participates in events and parades. HopeNow Furniture Bank benefits from the support of our loyal truck decal business sponsors.

## Thanks For Your Referrals

Hope Now Furniture Bank relies on community organizations to make us aware of clients in need of our services. We want to say “Thank You” to the following agencies and community services for your cooperation in helping us carry out our mission.

Behavioral Health Partners  
 Freedom Center  
 Interchurch Social Services  
 Kno-Ho-Co  
 Knox County Children’s Services  
 Knox County Congregations  
 Knox County Job and Family Services

Knox County Veteran’s Office  
 Midwest Innovations  
 New Directions  
 Red Cross  
 Salvation Army  
 The Main Place



## 2022 Contributors of \$1,000+

Anonymous  
 Ariel Corporation (includes warehouse use)  
 Beth Prince  
 Brenneman Lumber Company (lumber)  
 Elizabeth and William Mather Fund  
 Elks of Mount Vernon BPOE#140  
 Faith Lutheran Church  
 First Congregational Church UCC  
 James and Diane Goodrich

James Stover  
 Jan Reynolds  
 Jerry and Diane Harper  
 Johnny’s Furniture (Mattresses)  
 Knox County Foundation (YPI)  
 Knox County Job and Family Services  
 Mark and Denise Ramser  
 Peter Creek Fund

## Contributors of \$500+

Debra Massa  
 Dennis and Pat Tuttle  
 Ed and Arlene Hall  
 Gay Street United Methodist Church

Joe and Krys Montell  
 Karen Greever  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Vance  
 Rev. Mearle and Jane Griffith

# Furniture and Houseware Donations

To schedule a furniture pickup for a requested donation of \$20.00, go online to <https://www.hopenowfurniturebank.org> and click on the Donations tab. Then complete a pickup request form, or call HNFB's donation phone number at 740-358-2998 and leave a message. Furniture can also be delivered to our warehouse Tuesdays 1-3:30 and Thursdays 10-12:30.

## Client Stories



We were so thrilled to be a part of making this dream come true! Madison had been with this foster mom since she was 13. At age 20, she now has a job and was moving into her first apartment. We helped to furnish that apartment for her.



Like many older adults in these difficult times, Donna has chosen to take in her grandchildren rather than see them go into foster care because of adverse home conditions. She wanted them to have a more stable environment where she can love and encourage them. It was a pleasure to supply her with beds, other needed furniture, and linens to make a home for them.

## Our Volunteers

Hope Now Furniture Bank's operation is run by a small group of approximately three dozen supremely dedicated volunteers who provided more than 10,000 hours of service in 2022. Several of our volunteers also help out at other local social service agencies where they often provide information and referrals to HNFB. If interested in volunteering, go to <https://www.hopenowfurniturebank.org> or call our office at 740-392-3155. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization and are always welcome to share their talents with our mission efforts.



## Board of Directors

Lee Rhoades, President; Wayne Dunlop, Vice President; James Harder, Treasurer; Lee Dunlop, Media and Publications; Beverly Actis Hierl, Administrative Operations; Shelley Grubb, Events; Cindy Sperry, Housewares; Marshall Winkle, Woodshop; Marilyn Hoy, Lorraine Olsheski, Robert Ready, member-at-large (Warehouse Manager Emeritus)

## HopeNow Furniture Bank Staff

Mearle L. Griffith, Executive Director; Steve Frye, Director of Operations; Nikki Alfrey, Office Manager; Rachel Cook, Scheduler