



**1,923 families in 2017**  
*with more good work to be done!*



*Amy Fulbright helps a young client pick out bedding. See page 2 for more on this program.*

In 2017, the Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan provided 1,923 families – 5,582 men, women and children total – with 13,897 items valued at \$765,097. But Furniture Bank Client Manager Amy Fulbright believes this is still only scratching the surface.

“There are absolutely more families we can be helping,” she said. “It is always a matter of finding the resources needed to help.”

After years of serving Oakland and Macomb County exclusively, the Furniture Bank began offering services to Wayne County families with support from United Way for Southeastern Michigan and the Community Foundation

for Southeast Michigan in late 2015. As of this newsletter goes to print, the Furniture Bank has already provided furniture to more than 300 Wayne County families since that time.

“More people are embracing our mission,” Fulbright said. “They’re donating furniture... and money that keeps our trucks on the road collecting donated furniture.”

The Furniture Bank seeks to continue expanding its Wayne County outreach. Executive Director Rob Boyle says the organization hopes to have an additional facility in Detroit by 2019.

“We were founded in Oakland County, and serving Pontiac and other Oakland Communities will always be very near and dear to us,” said Boyle.

“But having an additional location in Wayne County will allow us collect more furniture from communities like Canton, Dearborn and the Grosse Pointes, and help more families in communities like Detroit, Harper Woods and Redford.

“There is a tremendous unmet need in our region,” he adds. “We want to do something about it.”

*Crain’s Best-Managed Nonprofit finalist*

In December 2017, The Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan was named one of five finalists chosen in Crain’s Detroit Business “Best-Managed Nonprofits” contest. A total of 25

nonprofit groups were nominated and considered by the business publication, which has been presenting these awards for the past 28 years. “The contest serves as not only a way to lift up the accomplishments of those organizations, but to share their best practices,” said Crain’s in their article announcing the finalists and winner, Alternatives for Girls.

“It feels good to be recognized in the company of some really well-run nonprofits,” said Rob Boyle, executive director of the Furniture Bank. “Alternatives for Girls has done phenomenal work. It’s a real honor.” Other nominees included the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit, the Midnight Golf Program and Care of Southeastern Michigan.

Boyle noted that the recognition is a point of pride for the Pontiac nonprofit. The staff was also invited to the Crain’s Newsmaker of the Year Luncheon along with other finalists.



*From left to right: Furniture Bank Board Treasurer Victor Arbulu; Board Member and Wayne County Circuit Judge Kathleen McCarthy; Furniture Bank Executive Director Robert Boyle; and Board President Bruce Gleba.*





## Main Street Bank hosts bedding drive — you can too!

Furniture Bank volunteers coordinate bedding drives throughout the year so that children getting new mattresses also get new bedding sets. A shout-out to Main Street Bank in Metro Detroit for hosting a Holiday bedding drive in 2017 that helped so many of our families!



Main Street Bank Marketing Manager Margie Adler gathers sheets, blankets and comforters for children who will receive beds from the Furniture Bank. We thank Margie and all the great folks at Main Street for their generosity!



Would you, your company, or your local civic organization like to host a drive of your own? We welcome your help. Contact Furniture Bank Development Director Barb Rogers at [barb.rogers@furniture-bank.org](mailto:barb.rogers@furniture-bank.org) or call 248-332-1300 for more information.

## *We love our clients!* **Furniture Bank fills a home for Detroit mother of 3**



Krystal VanBuren heard about the Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan from a friend who received help.

As it turned out, Krystal also needed help and was able to receive a Furniture Bank voucher for a house full of furniture for her

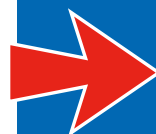
family home in Detroit. After getting housing help from St. Vincent de Paul, Krystal rented a trailer, grabbed a couple of friends and made her way to the Furniture Bank warehouse in Pontiac.

"It worked out good," she said. "I was like a little kid in a candy store. I couldn't believe I could get all of it."

She was able to furnish her duplex with a couch, dresser, two end tables and a dining table and "they gave the kids a bed," she added. "God was on my side."

Pictured above is Krystal who loaded up her trailer with the help of friends, and got her house set up.

"I tell anybody – they will help you," she said of the Furniture Bank staff. "They were just wonderful."



The Furniture Bank has a "**Beds for Kids**" program that accepts gently-used twin beds or purchases new ones with a donation of \$100 so a local child will no longer have to sleep on the floor. Tax-deductible donations (beds or money) can be made at [www.furniture-bank.org/beds-for-kids](http://www.furniture-bank.org/beds-for-kids).



## Furniture Bank events:

*Thanks to all who come out to support us and have fun!*

Email [events@furniture-bank.org](mailto:events@furniture-bank.org) or call (248) 332-1300 x206 for information about upcoming events



### April 28: Our annual night of cards and games

The 6th Annual Euchre Party & Game Night will once again take place at the Kilgour Scottish Centre, 2360 Rochester Ct. in Troy from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, April 28. All proceeds support the mission of the Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan. The evening will include a pizza-and-salad dinner, cash bar, and prizes along with eight timed rounds of euchre and board games for non-euchre players. Cost is \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door. Join in the fun and support a great cause. Sponsored by Gleba & Associates. Purchase tickets at; [www.furniture-bank.org/events/annual-euchre-party-game-night](http://www.furniture-bank.org/events/annual-euchre-party-game-night). Email [events@furniture-bank.org](mailto:events@furniture-bank.org) for more information.

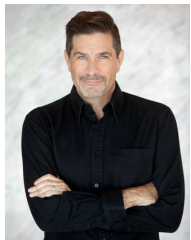


### May 19: Wine tasting at the historic Guardian Building downtown

Don't miss the Furniture Bank's Third Annual Wine Tasting at the Historic Guardian Building from 7-10 p.m., Saturday, May 19. Fine wine, cool jazz and hors-d'oeuvres will all be served in a chic art deco setting with spectacular views of Downtown Detroit. Cocktails and brews will be served, and guided tours of one of Detroit's true architectural treasures are also available. Tickets are \$60 and there are also sponsorship opportunities to get your company name in front of a diverse, professional, upscale crowd. For more information, tickets and sponsorships, contact: [Events@furniture-bank.org](mailto:Events@furniture-bank.org).

*Platinum Sponsors include Joseph Aiello & Associates, Inc., Secure-24 LLC and Francine & David Zick.*

## COMING SOON:



### October 11: Come one, come all for a night of laughs

Our 9th Annual Comedy Night presented by PNC Bank will, once again, be hosted at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, in Royal Oak, on Thursday, October 11, 2018. Tickets are on sale now for this popular night, featuring comedian Jeff Nease, a Midwest-based comic with a global following. He is popular along the Las Vegas Strip as well as on cruise lines where he performs on ships around the world. He has opened for such comedy icons as Jim Carrey, Tim Allen and Ellen DeGeneres. Sponsorship includes purchase of table seats along with recognition on materials and website. For tickets or sponsorship information, contact [events@furniture-bank.org](mailto:events@furniture-bank.org).

## Thanks to our budding artists ... and save the date for 2019

The 2017 inaugural event was so popular, we filled every seat for our second annual painting fundraiser at Painting with a Twist in Rochester Hills! A total of \$735 was raised by more than 40 attendees who enjoyed an evening of painting, wine, snacks and camaraderie. With these funds, we can furnish the homes of three families that need beds and essential furniture. Painting with a Twist donated 50 percent of each seat back to the Furniture Bank for this fundraiser.

Save the date for next year's 3rd Annual Painting with a Purpose:

**Wednesday, January 16, 2019**



## Quick Facts in 2017

- The Furniture Bank provided local children with **791** twin beds, **82** cribs, **91** portable cribs and **66** toddler beds in 2017. This adds up to **1,030** kids who are getting a safer, healthier start in life!"
- An estimated **300** families made use of the Furniture Bank's free access community area, picking up **1,038** items of furniture valued at **\$114,000** that were not delivered to families through the regular program.
- We continued expanding our programs into Wayne County, with **136** Wayne families receiving **1,267** items of furniture.



# Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan

333 NORTH PERRY STREET  
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48342

Spring/Summer 2018

## newsletter

*Providing beds and essential home  
furniture to children and families in need*

CALL  
US AT **248-332-1300**

or visit [furniture-bank.org](http://furniture-bank.org) to  
donate. Ask about our FREE  
pickups or take advantage of  
our "We'll Take It Out for You"  
service for only \$20.

### Essential items needed:

**MATTRESSES** and/or box  
springs of all sizes

**Kitchen/dining room TABLE**  
and **CHAIR** sets

**DRESSERS**

**SOFAS**



### OUR MISSION:



The Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan (FBSEM) has a mission to provide beds and essential home furniture to children and families in need.

One of more than 120 independently operated furniture banks throughout North America, FBSEM receives referrals from a network of more than 70 local health and human service agencies and has provided furniture to more than 60,000 families since its inception. This year, we are on target to provide 1,400 local families with more than 12,000 items of furniture and other housewares.

DETAILS: [www.furniture-bank.org](http://www.furniture-bank.org)