



Furniture Bank
of Southeastern Michigan

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

Fall/Winter
2018

newsletter

www.furniture-bank.org • 248-332-1300

Furniture Bank exceeds 3-year goal for serving Wayne County families

In October 2015, with the support of United Way for Southeastern Michigan and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Furniture Bank set a goal of providing beds and furniture to 315 Wayne County families over a three-year period, expanding its reach beyond Oakland and Macomb Counties.

The pilot project ended this past September with the Furniture Bank far exceeding its goal. We provided **418** Wayne families – or **1,258** people (422

adults and 836 children) – with **4,367** items of furniture, including **671** beds. Eighty percent of these families live in Detroit.

The Furniture Bank now seeks to raise \$300,000 to open a Wayne County facility. “Wayne is the largest county in the state, with the largest concentration of poverty, so the need is compelling,” says Executive Director Robert Boyle. If you’re interested in the project, you can contact Rob at 248-332-1300 or rob@furniture-bank.org.



Brayden is one of 400 children who received a bed from the Furniture Bank in 2018. He also got new sheets, a comforter and a mattress cover thanks dedicated Furniture Bank volunteers who work to ensure that children get a full set of bedding along with their bed. See page 3 for more about our Bedding for Kids program.



“Super Driver” Phil Bradberry picks up the first of two late-model box trucks that the Furniture Bank is adding to its fleet.

Two new trucks will offer flexibility and capacity for furniture pickups

We’ve sold our 26-foot straight van after 11 good years of service, and have purchased two late-model 16-foot box trucks. This will leave us with a fleet of three 16-footers, “which increases our capacity for pickups and deliveries, and gives us more flexibility to better serve the community,” Executive Director Robert Boyle explained.

A generous anonymous donor issued a \$13,500 challenge grant, and other supporters came through with another \$24,400. This totals \$37,900... a big thanks to everyone who helped!

The plan is to keep two trucks serving the area from the Pontiac facility, and the other to serve Wayne County from a Detroit location once it is secured (see related story at left).

Kroger shopping can help the Furniture Bank



Do you have a Kroger Plus rewards card? Your shopping trips can benefit the Furniture Bank! Log in at www.kroger.com, select Community Rewards and search for the Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan either by name or by KD865. (New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.) For information about enrolling, visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com.





Community events assist the Furniture Bank mission

Comedy Night brings in more than \$50,000 for Furniture Bank programs

PRESENTED BY  **PNC BANK**

The 9th Annual Furniture Bank Comedy Night on Oct. 11 raised \$50,595 for programs to help children and families with beds and other basic furniture needs. This is the second-largest Comedy Night in the nine years of this popular, annual event, hosted again at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak. Many thanks to presenting sponsor PNC Bank for another successful Comedy Night!



Furniture Bank Board Members Bruce and Jill Gleba with long-time supporter Richard Euler, enjoying some Comedy Night fun. (Courtesy Gleba & Associates)

Euchre and games raise money for families in need

The Furniture Bank's 6th Annual Euchre Party & Game Night was hosted on April 28 at the Kilgour Scottish Centre in Troy where attendees enjoyed a pizza-and-salad dinner, games, cash prizes and 50/50 raffle. Board games were offered for non-euchre players.

More than 100 attended the event, which raised nearly \$5,000 to provide beds and furniture to local families in need. Many thanks to presenting sponsor, Gleba & Associates, Inc., and sponsor Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates.



Fun was had by all who attended this year's Euchre Party & Game Night, which raised about \$5,000 for Furniture Bank programs.

A night of wine and history raises \$78,000

Our 3rd Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser at downtown Detroit's historic Guardian Building on May 19 raised more than \$78,000 for Furniture Bank programs. The evening also included a live auction with autographed sports memorabilia, travel packages, club golf and a Grand Prix Package, among others.

Thank you all of our event sponsors, especially Platinum Sponsors Joseph Aiello & Associates, Inc. (Employee Benefit Consultants), Secure-24 (Managed Hosting and Cloud Services), and Francine and David Zick. A special shout-out to Joyce Weishaar and her team at Avl North America, as well as Judge Kathleen McCarthy for all of their hard work to make this event a success.



More than 200 attended the May 19 Wine Tasting Fundraiser which included fine wines, scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and cool jazz, with some guests taking time for a tour of the Guardian, one of Detroit's architectural treasures.

The **Furniture Bank** has achieved the **2018 GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency**,

showcasing the progress and results we're making toward our mission! We are proud to share our key metrics and highlight our impact helping children and families in the community.

Find us at <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/38-1914651>.





Bedding for Kids program takes off, *with help of volunteers*



One of the services offered by the Furniture Bank is the “Bedding for Kids” program. Many thanks to the volunteers and donors who make this program happen for our families.



Tami Jelinek, the Lead Volunteer for our Bedding for Kids Program:

WHO:

A group of volunteers partnering with the Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan to provide bedding for children (ages 1-17) who are receiving new beds, usually about 15 per week. In many cases, families were recently homeless and their children have not had a bed of their own. “The smiles I’ve had a chance to see on many of their faces is a big reason I continue to be passionate about this project!” Jelinek said.

WHAT:

This “Friends of Furniture Bank” volunteer team provides twin bedding sets to be given with every bed. Sets are chosen and tagged with a child’s name. When children receive the bedding, they see their names on it and know that someone picked this cozy, colorful bedding set out just for them!



WHEN:

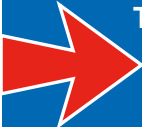
The Furniture Bank gives out approximately 60 beds per month, and most are twin beds for children. That’s a lot of bedding! Opportunities to donate are ongoing, and we try to keep a curated assortment of kids’ bedding on hand in “inventory,” to stay ahead of demand. Having groups do bedding drives is a huge help. Follow our Facebook group page, “Friends of Furniture Bank Bedding for Kids” for information about what is needed. Private message Jelinek or comment on a post to help.

WHERE:

Bedding donations may be brought to the Furniture Bank warehouse, or pickups can be arranged.

WHY:

“My husband, Keith, and I have supported the Furniture Bank for several years,” Jelinek said. “Through my involvement as a donor, volunteer, and team member in both organizations my heart has been increasingly drawn to the needs of families all around us. They are our neighbors.”

 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.

Frequently asked questions: **Yes, yes and yes!**

A few answers to questions you may be asking:

- **Yes**, donations are tax deductible. You will receive an in-kind donation receipt for the total value of your donation.
- **Yes**, stay in touch through our Facebook group. Ask to be put on our email list whether you donate often, one time, or not at all and just want to be informed. Share this opportunity with others.
- **Yes**, we would prefer that donations be complete bedding sets (bed-in-a-bag sets are good). However, we will happily accept bedspreads or sheet sets “a la carte” and will mix and match those to make complete sets. We also accept mattress pads.
- **Yes**, donate bedding at any time. We need twin bedding sets for young boys and girls, pre-teen boys and girls, and teen boys and girls. Having a good assortment on hand from each of these categories will help us stay ahead of demand.
- **Yes**, help is welcome for delivering, sorting, tagging, for anyone with time to give. Jelinek will also help you organize a bedding drive for your church or community group.



Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan

333 NORTH PERRY STREET
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48342

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

or visit 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.

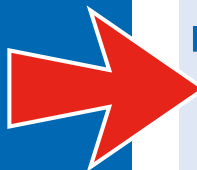
Essential items needed:

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