

On the Couch with



The New Life Furniture Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of New Life Furniture. We hope to keep you updated on the many changes, joys and sorrows we encounter on this journey to help those around us in need.

We laugh about how our initial goal of this ministry in 2006 was to help one, maybe two families each month with some of their furniture needs. Three years later, our 2009 end of year totals were deliveries of over 1,500 items to 160 families and individuals in the

Cincinnati area. Obviously we were not dreaming big enough! We are now!

2009 will be remembered as a year of change for New Life Furniture. Earlier in 2009 we applied for and received the 501(c)3 status from the IRS. While the financial help to run the ministry was not quite as expected, the furniture donations were certainly up, as were the families seeking our assistance.

A lot of laughter, a lot of tears, a lot of sweat and a

lot of love goes into this ministry. We are so grateful that you share our mission to helping those that are in great need around the Cincinnati area by providing them with items that truly help make a house a home.
–Tim & Holly

**Spring, 2010
Volume 1, Issue 1**

2009 New Life Furniture EOY Stats

January – December

- 160 Furniture Deliveries Completed
- 1,507 furniture items distributed.
- Countless number of prayers and hugs given and received.



Public Allies selects New Life Furniture as its Team Service Project for 2010

By Drew Tilow

The Next Generation Creative Class project team of Public Allies, Cincinnati are very proud to be working with New Life Furniture this year to enhance NLF's ability to fulfill its mission: to provide free, gently-used furniture to families in need all across the city of Cincinnati and beyond.

Public Allies, a program of BRIDGES for A Just Community, is a leadership development program that seeks to advance new leadership in order to strengthen communities, nonprofits and civic participation.

When we were first presented with the option to select any number of projects, NLF stood out as one that

was on the right track and doing something that everyone in the community can support.



We felt that our impact would be felt by New Life Furniture and those they serve. In addition to supporting the organization through our volunteer efforts, we will be helping to design a new logo, create a brochure and recruiting volunteers who will be dedicated to New Life Furniture.

We are also very excited to be promoting New Life Furniture in

the planning of this year's *Take A Seat* event at the Cincinnati Museum Center on March 25, which will raise awareness of NLF in the community and further the organization's reach.

To learn more about the Public Allies and this year's Take A Seat event, please visit:

www.bridgescincinnati.org

Volunteer Spotlight: Dave Heckaman

A key ingredient in the life of New Life Furniture is the volunteer base. As you can probably imagine, it takes a lot of hands to keep a ministry like this functioning and productive.

Since our beginnings, Dave Heckaman has been one of our most reliable and hard working volunteers. Dave has exactly the strength, heart, and love for others that gives NLF its unique personality.

After retiring from CNE School District as a history teacher and principal in 2007, Dave took a job as a consultant for Garst Museum in Greenville, Ohio. He is a writer/historian on the new exhibits they are installing. He and a

colleague are working on a book about the beginning of the United States Army during the Federal Period, 1784-1795.

Dave resides in Milford, Ohio with his lovely wife Carol. They have two grown children.

Says Dave about New Life Furniture:

“I volunteer for NLF because it is a sharing of grace and love that touch families in a time when they need all the help they can get. I remember a little four year old whose family had just had a fire burn up everything they

had. She asked her mother who sent this furniture. Her mother said, ‘Jesus.’ I also like the fellowship with the other volunteers”



A New Truck for New Life Furniture

A wonderful gift was anonymously given to New Life Furniture in January of this year. A brand new 14 foot box truck was donated to us by people who obviously deeply believe in this ministry. Since our beginnings, we have used small and large pickup trucks, vans, cars, anything available to get the furniture from the donor's house to our client's house. We've even resorted to renting trucks a few times!

The new truck that will help New Life Furniture serve even more families



Seen here with the Saturday crew before it's 'maiden voyage'

It's hard to express what this gift means to all of us at New Life Furniture and how much it will help to serve our ever growing waiting list of families. Hopefully it will be in your neighborhood soon picking up gently used furniture!

and...A New Home for New Life Furniture

As if a new truck wasn't a great way to start off the New Year, New Life Furniture also moved into new warehouse space. For the past few years, we relied on two 10x30 foot storage units and a wood shed in Milford to briefly store our overflow furniture donations. Not much room to work in, but it did the job.

In December, Tim and Holly had an opportunity to tour the Matthew 25 Ministries facility and to meet with its founder, Wendell Mettey.

They shared with the Pastor what NLF is all about and the dreams and hopes for its future. He seemed excited and offered them a lot of advice from his past experiences.

A week or so later, Pastor Mettey

Please be sure to visit the website of Matthew 25 Ministries at www.m25m.org and see the amazing work they do worldwide

called, indicating he thought NLF needed more space and found a facility in Blue Ash that might be of interest. Tim and Holly visited the facility and it was indeed just the right size to handle New Life Furniture's recent growth spurt. Matthew 25 Ministries also surprised NLF with the gift of covering the first six months rent!

The new facility has one loading dock, one drive in dock, plenty of storage room to sort furniture out by type (couch, tables, chairs, etc.) and also office space to utilize as NLF continues to grow.

New Life Furniture in the News!

Furniture bank lends helping hand to families in need

Contributed by Rachel Richardson

Cincinnati Enquirer

As a single mother who works part-time as a crossing guard, Sandra Stanley didn't have much money left over to give daughter Robyn a bed, let alone the bedroom the six-year-old dreamed of.

"It really made her dreams come true."

A social worker referred her to New Life Furniture, a non-profit organization based at Milford First United Methodist Church. And a week before Christmas, volunteers delivered a chest, daybed and bedding, night stand, chest, lamps and even a 7-foot decorated Christmas tree.

"She was really excited; it really made her dreams come true," said Stanley of Robyn. "It made a very big difference to me and put the spirit of Christmas in my heart."

Stanley is among 160 local families to receive nearly 1,500 pieces of

gently used furniture last year from the Milford area furniture bank.

Founded in 2006 by friends Tim Nabors and Holly Young, the organization serves people recovering from acute financial problems or who are transitioning from shelters into homes.

Many families are suffering from the ravages of the recession. Virtually all are at or below the poverty level.

"Truthfully we're just meeting the tip of the iceberg and that's sad," said Young of Union Township. "Our goal is not to provide everything; it's to provide those things that make a family cohesive: dining tables, couches and beds."

"We always say, 'Imagine moving to your first apartment with two kids -- you need everything,'" added Nabors, a Milford resident. "We do what we can to help them get started."

The duo hopes to raise enough funds this year to draw a full-time salary, which they say will help them increase the numbers of families they can serve – and allow them to dedicate more of their time to their passion.

"The furniture gets us in the door, but we don't just drop off the furniture and leave," said Young, who says that volunteers often help families with food, clothing and a compassionate shoulder to cry on. "People deserved to be loved."

Although helping local families is the furniture bank's most important mission, its work is good for Mother Nature, too.

"There's so much nice furniture that people throw away," said Young. "We're saving landfills, too."

The organization currently operates on a waiting list of 30 families, who are referred by social service organizations. Among the most critically needed of items include twin and full-size mattresses and box springs, dressers and living room furniture.

Pick-ups are free within the I-275 loop and can be arranged by calling 513-313-0530. Monetary donations are accepted online at www.nlfurniture.org.

"The kids are usually so excited to get a bed or a couch to sit on. Most families will cry," said Nabors. "It makes you feel kind of sad sometimes, but glad too. It's just one more burden we help them overcome a little bit."

Welcome Home Baskets

Did you know that with each furniture delivery, we try to give a small 'welcome home' basket? Each one is a laundry basket filled a few basic supplies for our new friends. Items that are typically included inside are personal hygiene items, dish towels, hand towels, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies. We've also recently had a group that donated homemade pancake mixes wrapped in a kitchen towel. Each basket is somewhat customized to what we know about the family. We will even include a few small stuffed animals if young children are in the household. If you can help with providing these types of items, please contact us at (513)313-0530.



Prov. 19:17. *He who is gracious to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed*

Client Spotlight: Furniture for Four

New Life Furniture

Mailing address:
541 Main Street
Milford, OH 45150
Phone: 513.313.0530
E-mail:
info@nlfurniture.org



We're on the Web!
www.nlfurniture.org

A call for help came from a case worker at the Talbert House in Cincinnati. One of her clients was in desperate need of some help to furnish the apartment she just moved into. The case worker went on to tell us that this particular mother of three young children has had a recent string of bad luck and would deeply appreciate any help.

The case worker stated that the family had always been able to financially support themselves. The mother is seven months pregnant with her fourth child, her husband was removed from the home by the courts, their landlord did not pay the mortgage and the place they were renting was in foreclosure. Just before finding a new place to live, they discovered an infestation of bed bugs and had to dispose of all furniture. As if that wasn't enough, the doctor put the pregnant mother on complete bed rest until after the baby arrived. Sometimes when it rains, it really pours!

We contacted the family and were able to provide them with dressers, a nice couch, a large overstuffed chair with an ottoman, a kitchen table and four chairs, lamps, coffee table, end tables and more. Tears began to well up in her eyes as the five NLF volunteers continued to carry the much needed items into her home. The delivery crew made this a joyful experience for all by joking with the children and offering sincere encouragement and understanding to the mother.

The mother hugged and thanked each of the volunteers as they finished. It had been a long time since a positive thing had happened to her and now she can hopefully see some light as the recent storms in her life begin to pass.

Love your neighbor. It's what it's all about.

Now of course we have to ask you - Can you spare a few bucks?

The cost of delivering 10 to 12 furniture items to our clients cost New Life Furniture an average of \$50. Your monetary gift will help us keep the candles burning and reach even more families.

I want to help support New Life Furniture for the next 12 months. Enclosed is my first monthly gift of: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$_____

I want to help support New Life Furniture with this one time gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$_____

I would also like to help New Life Furniture by volunteering my time and talents. Please contact me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please make your check payable to: New Life Furniture

Mail to: New Life Furniture, 541 Main Street, Milford, OH 45150

New Life Furniture is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit, donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Even the smallest gestures of kindness plant seeds of love.