



Community Impact Report 2021

"Our dreams are big, our hopes high, our goals long-term, and the path is difficult. But the only failure is not to try."

Jimmy Carter

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 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 Furniture Bank operates on an annual budget completely funded by donations by 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.



THIS is what we're all about!

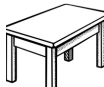
Jackson and Riley have been sleeping on the floor in an empty house. Their mom said they didn't mind, that it was like camping out, but she is so glad to now have beds for them and for herself. We were able to supply them with a bunk bed that has a full and twin section, a queen bed, couch, tables, and other household furniture and furnishings. What a difference this will make in turning a house into a HOME!



This grandma had the staff in tears when she left after getting a bed for her sweet grandson who will be living with her. He was thrilled with a picture of geese and his own mirror! She was so thankful for a crockpot. It was a joy to serve them.

Highlights of 2021

- **Still Recovering from the downturn of COVID-19 Pandemic**, Hope Now Furniture Bank served **144** families of **350** individuals: **218** adults and **132** children. A **33% (48)** of households had a disabled member, including **6** disabled **veterans**. **Twelve** families had previously been homeless, six families reported bedbug or mold problems, while nine were domestic abuse victims.
- HopeNow Furniture Bank distributed **1374** furniture pieces and **691** bags/boxes of household goods including: **210** beds of all sizes, **122** couches, **62** living room chairs, **79** kitchen tables, and **78** 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, crockpots, etc. The furniture distributed was valued at **\$63,759.00** (used furniture pricing).

- Community partnering continues with Knox County Job & Family Services (JFS): In 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.



Fundraising: Our Truck Logo project added more local business names and logos in 2021 for an annual donation of \$250 each. The truck gets frequent exposure as we do furniture pickups across the county, and HopeNow benefits from the support of our loyal business sponsors.

2021 Contributors of \$1,000+:



Ariel Corporation (includes warehouse use)
 Brenneman Lumber Company (lumber)
 Knox County Jobs and Family Services
 Knox County Foundation (YPI)
 Elks of Mount Vernon
 Mark Ramser Family Fund
 Faith Lutheran Church
 First Congregational UCC

Peter Creek Fund
 Anonymous
 Jerry and Diane Harper
 James and Diane Goodrich
 Richard and Joan Stallard Trust
 Johnny's Mattress (mattresses)
 Arlene Hettinger Estate
 Youth Philanthropy Initiative Grant

Contributors of \$500+:

Ed and Arlene Hall

Paul and Maureen Heiser

Debra Massa

RCI Mechanical

Swetlic Chiropractic

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Vance

1st Presbyterian Church & Women's Association

The Kendall Group

Thanks For Your Referrals

HopeNow 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

Interchurch Social Services

Knox County Children’s Services

Freedom Center

New Directions

Kno-Ho-Co

Red Cross

The Main Place

Knox County Job and Family Services

Salvation Army

Knox County Veteran’s office

Knox County Congregations

Thanks, Art!

HopeNow Furniture Bank expresses grateful appreciation to Art Schad for his faithful and dedicated service to the furniture bank as a long-time volunteer and as our first Executive Director. Art retired in October 2021. We appreciate all you have done for Hope Now Furniture Bank!



Welcome Steve and Mearle

The HopeNow Board of Directors named Steve Frye as Director of Operations in October. Steve, a longtime volunteer, oversees the day-to-day operations. Effective January 1, 2022 the Board named Rev. Mearle Griffith as Executive Director with major responsibilities for community relations and fundraising.

Our Volunteers:

HopeNow 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 2021. A number of our volunteers also serve at other local social service agencies where they often provide information about and referrals to HopeNow Furniture Bank. If interested in volunteering, go to <http://www.hopenowfurniturebank.org> or call our office at **740-392-3155**. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization and always welcome to share their talents with our mission efforts.



Board of Directors

Lee Rhoades, President - Wayne Dunlop, Vice President - James Harder, Treasurer
Mearle Griffith, Executive Director - Steve Frye, Director of Operations
Lee Dunlop, Publicity & Media - Al Gore, Workshop - Shelley Grubb, Events
Beverly Actis Hierl, Administrative Operations - Robert Ready, member at-large
(Warehouse Manager Emeritus) - Cindy Sperry, Household Goods - Marshall Winkle, Woodshop

Furniture and Houseware Donations

To schedule a furniture pickup for a requested donation of \$20.00, go online to <http://www.hopenowfurniturebank.org> and click on the **Donations** tab, then complete a pickup request form. OR call Hope Now'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**).