



Furniture Bank

*furnishing beginnings
spreading hope*

Summer 2011 Volume 2, Number 3

Changing Lives

Continued Growth

With summer drawing to a close, it's important to outline some of our accomplishments to date while also recognizing the near term challenges.

Since the addition of two new trucks in the second quarter, Furniture Bank's pickup and delivery service has increased dramatically resulting in higher revenue in our social purpose enterprise on a year over year basis. Along with other reasons, the enhancements to the Furniture Bank "brand" through the launch of a new and improved web site coupled with an extensive campaign of public service announcements through Global Toronto have made a significant difference. Both have enabled Furniture Bank to become more recognizable throughout the GTA. We still have a long way to go before "Toronto's best kept secret" becomes a top of mind choice for donors.

Our client base continues to grow and with 1,661 families already served, we are well on our way of exceeding last year's total. The ever increasing demand for our service to an expanding client base puts significant pressure on our financial resources.

You as our donors can continue to support Furniture Bank through your financial and in-kind donations and as well, by participating with us as a volunteer or fundraiser attendee. Our Chair Affair is happening on September 21st at the Steam Whistle Brewery so plan to attend. Or get involved as a volunteer for our second annual Bottle Drive and have some fun with a team on October 8th!

I close by expressing, on behalf of Furniture Bank, our sincere condolences to the family, friends and constituents of Mr. Jack Layton who was a significant supporter of our organization.

Perry Davidson,
Executive Director

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Daniel's Story*

Daniel came to us from Yonge Street Mission, Connecting Youth to our Furniture Link work program. They felt he would be a good fit with Furniture Bank, in the areas of customer service and the call centre for an 8 week on the job training and work placement. Daniel had limited previous work experience that he needed to strengthen his professional abilities in communication, learn corporate culture and build a strong work ethic.

Daniel is an enthusiastic individual who loves engaging with people. Learning quickly, he easily adapted to his environment and left with the skills to be a highly successful call centre representative. He handled inbound and outbound call activity with donors and he used our CRM software to log all comments and keep records up to date. Daniel answered calls in a professional manner and learned to provide quotations over the phone.

"I feel I have gained a lot of valuable experience. I have done things here that I never saw myself doing before. I have learned that I can also be a leader, at least unto myself. This, being my last day, is filled with a happy feeling as I am very hopeful for what is yet to come. Thank you very much for all your effort and time that you invested in me", says Daniel.

*name has been changed to protect identity

I am deeply saddened by the untimely death of Jack Layton. Personally and as a politician, Jack had a heart for the disadvantaged in our society. In 1997, when Furniture Bank needed free warehouse space, Jack made arrangements for us to move into 200 Madison Avenue. Last year, in spite of his very busy schedule, Jack supported Furniture Bank at our Chair Affair fundraiser. As the auctioneer, he was the "hit" of the evening with his great humour, quips, and antics. I especially enjoyed the way he sat sedately on a special chair as if he were being photographed as Prime Minister. Our condolences and prayers go out to Olivia, Michael and Sara, and all those who will miss Jack in their lives.

- Sister Anne Schenck, Furniture Bank Founding Director

Chair Affair Title Sponsor

STREETCAR

Since 2002, STREETCAR has remained Toronto's leading urban mid-rise condominium developer, having carved a niche by Rethinking. Urban Living. We specialize in designing boutique buildings that live in harmony with existing neighbourhoods and seamlessly enhance their surrounding communities. We believe that Rethinking. Urban Living. comes with a social responsibility to raise awareness and take action on issues affecting our communities.

We are pleased to be the Title Sponsor of the 2nd Annual Chair Affair in support of the Furniture Bank. It is important to us to support the organizations within the communities in which we build and address the neighbourhood needs and desires. The Chair Affair in particular is an event we are proud to be a part of as it helps families and individuals live with dignity in secure and comfortable environments and brings together local business, art and design and the community.

2nd Annual Bottle Drive

The Beer Store

Join us again for our 2nd Annual Bottle Drive, sponsored by the Beer Store. Last year, we were able to raise \$11,000 on our very first bottle drive event at 22 locations across the Greater Toronto Area.

On Thanksgiving Saturday, October 8th, 2011, our volunteer teams will be on hand at 50 Beer Store locations. Check our website for more info in mid-September to find out where.

Volunteer to be a part of our on-site teams on October 8th or organize a Bottle Drive within your neighbourhood to deliver to one of our locations.

Contact Kam at 416-934-1229, ext. 708 or kgrewal@furniturebank.org.

Events



Join us for this fantastic evening!
Wednesday, September 21st, 2011
Steam Whistle Brewery
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

sponsored by



hosted by



Proceeds in support of



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Purchase your tickets at www.furniturebank.org/chairaffair or call us at 416-934-1229.

You can also drop by at 11 Peel Avenue from Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:30 and on Saturdays until noon.



Last year's highest bid chair by Karen Kayne



Scan this now with your smart phone for tickets!



thanks to our generous sponsors



The world and life have been mighty good to me.
And I want to put something back.
Ted Turner

Thank you to Intact Financial!

Intact Financial demonstrates a commitment to making our communities healthier and happier. They encourage the involvement and citizenship of all their employees and in this past year we were fortunate to have several employees of Intact participate with us as volunteers. In addition, the Foundation funds many endeavours that aim to encourage independence and address the needs of youth at-risk.

Recently we accepted a grant in the amount of \$10,000 towards our Furniture Link, Youth Employment and Skills Training "Career Centre". This program is meant to teach youth about corporate culture, foster a strong work ethic, and decrease the unemployment rate among urban Toronto youth. Together, we can enable at-risk youth to contribute to society in a viable manner and thus reduce crimes of violence, theft and drugs.

Thank you Intact Foundation!



FB Life

Volunteer Day at Furniture Bank



Perry Davidson at the grill

On July 22nd, 2011, volunteer teams from three major international corporations worked together at our warehouse to help to serve our client families. Suncor, Blakes and Price WaterhouseCooper were on hand while Furniture Bank honoured them along with all of our volunteers that invested into over 16,000 hours in 2010.

Also attending was Ms. Anne Jamieson from the United Way's Toronto Enterprise Fund, supporting Furniture Link, our social enterprise. Furniture Link trains and employees marginalized individuals whom may not otherwise be unemployable.

Board Director, Shirley Knight also came by to present award certificates to volunteers donating over 100 hours over the course of a year.

Executive Director, Perry Davidson was the day's grill master as everyone enjoyed a barbeque lunch of hot dogs, soft drinks and watermelon. Such a fun day recognizing our valuable volunteers!



Shirley Knight presents Volunteer Awards



Volunteer team from Suncor and Blakes

Furniture Link - Malkah

Malkah came to Furniture Bank through St. Christopher House's Toronto Youth Job Corps Program to work in our warehouse.

He describes his 6 months working with the Furniture Bank as not just memorable but also uplifting. Malkah felt welcomed with open arms and connected quickly with staff and management here. Says Malkah, "Everyone had a part to play in my various reasons for enjoying my time and experience at Furniture Bank. It was very easy to work with individuals who care about your well being and your comfort level, as well as the vast number of families and individuals who are trying to start of a new life." He describes the FB environment in stating, "I learned that you may have a family at home but also with the people whom you spend eight to eight and half hours each day."

In July, Malkah moved forward to work with one of our corporate supporters, 1-800-Rid-of-It and we couldn't be prouder! We completely enjoyed his warmth and strong work ethic and are delighted that he still visits us from time to time! Best of success, Malkah!

Philanthropist: A person with a concern for the welfare of humankind, especially as shown by acts of benevolence. Philanthropists touch the lives of thousands of needy people each year by generously donating their money, time and energy to Furniture Bank. Please join us in our mission by making a donation today!

Ways to Give

Kids Sleep Tonight

Giving children and t'weens a comfortable place to dream:

You know how it feels to get a poor night's sleep – how it affects your health, your job and even your relationships. Now imagine it is not just one night. In fact, imagine having no bed at all. Now imagine that you are a child.

In Toronto, a thriving Canadian city, there are many children who do not have a bed to sleep on or a place to turn to when they're ill, tired, worried, or just need some peace and quiet.

In 2010, we supplied beds to more than 1,100 children through donations of 33 bunk beds, 28 captain's beds, 512 double mattress sets, 97 futons, 43 single beds, 404 twin mattress sets and 25 twin beds and 415 bedding/linen sets. Please give to the Kids Sleep Tonight initiative and get a child up off the floor!!!!

The Link - from here to there

Hiring a professional moving company is expensive!

Families that are referred to us have very little money for moving expenses and sometimes choose to sit on the floor, and pay for food, rather than pay the moving costs of collecting their free furnishings from Furniture Bank.

Through the generous support of our donors, we are able to help subsidize much of the cost. However, the reduced moving costs, even when as low as \$100, can be a challenge.

This year we launched a gift card program in denominations of \$50 that will go directly towards offsetting these moving expenses. The gift cards are distributed to participating agencies who will give them to users of FB services who could not otherwise afford the delivery of furniture.

Give the gift of transportation today!

Corporate Matching Gifts

Double or triple the impact of your gift with the help of your employer. Hundreds of companies will match contributions made by their employees. Some will even match gifts contributed by spouses or retired employees.

Contact your Human Resources department to obtain a matching gift form and complete your portion. Then, include the form when you send in your gift and we will take care of the rest. That's all it takes to double the good you do!

I want to support Furniture Bank \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

I would like to make a recurring monthly donation. Please contact me. You can cancel or change your donation at any time simply by contacting us. One tax receipt will be issued yearly. Monthly gifts are deducted on the 15th of the month.

Name _____ Address _____ Unit ____ City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please provide payment information or you may donate on line at www.furniturebank.org

I have enclosed a cheque payable to Furniture Bank

Please charge my VISA or Mastercard: Card No. _____ Expiry Date _____ Signature _____

Mail to: Furniture Bank, 11 Peel Avenue, Toronto, ON M6J 1M3

T 416-934-1229; F 416-934-0433; Charitable Registration No. 87253 1843 RR0001

Thank you for you Support!