

# 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.

The Kids Sleep Tonight Program offers needy children the opportunity to get a comfortable, good night's sleep which contributes to healthy brain functioning, and helps the body to heal, grow, and stay on track. Failure to get the sleep kids need, contributes to irritability and reduces concentration, which in turn can have an adverse effect at school, on sports performance, and home life.

While we receive furniture donations throughout the year, one thing that remains a constant challenge is the need for children's beds and single mattresses. The Kids Sleep Tonight program costs \$70 dollars per child and includes: single bed frame, mattress/box spring, sheets, pillow and comforter – a complete bed package when the items are donated to our cause.

Please give to the Kids Sleep Tonight initiative and help a child be the best they can be.

*Click on the image to view video*



## Give the Gift of Free Delivery

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. These gift cards can be purchased in any denomination 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.

Help a family out, call today!



### Newsletter Credits to:

Ann Marie Resztnik  
Fida Muhammad  
Kam Grewal

**“My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we will change the world.”**

**The Honourable  
Jack Layton**



# Furniture Bank

*furnishing beginnings  
spreading hope*

Year End Volume 2 Number 4

# Sharing Optimism

## Spreading Hope

As the Furniture Bank prepares for a flourishing 2012, we would like to take this moment to thank our staunch supporters who helped make our success possible this year. Without the countless hours our volunteers gave to the Second Annual Chair Affair event, as well as the Thanksgiving Bottle Drive, we could not have reached our goals.

The Furniture Bank is grateful to all our wonderful volunteers in the warehouse, our fundraising committee, and our growing corporate volunteers. This year alone we had the privilege of hosting several group volunteers from PwC, TD, Suncor, Capgemini, Accenture, Blake's, and Intact Insurance. But these are not the only volunteers leading by example; we have students to thank starting with the Toronto District Catholic School, Ryerson University, St. Joseph's College, York Middle School, GO Project, and Serve!

Thank you for enabling us to impact the lives of more than 2500 families in 2011, which by year's end will hit record amounts since our founding. Together with everyone's generosity, we have and will continue to make a difference, one family at a time. On this note, please consider becoming a financial donor to Furniture Bank in 2012 and help us to keep "furnishing beginnings and spreading hope".

Shirley Knight  
Acting Executive Director

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## Dearon Rhule's Story

**“This is the most important gift I could ever give my kids this Christmas and that the Furniture Bank could ever give me.”**

Dearon Rhule is a single working father of three who in the midst of battling custody issues came to the Furniture Bank after being referred by Horizons for Youth. For Dearon, the opportunity to choose vital household items at no cost meant more than words can describe. It meant bringing his family together just in time for the holidays, something that he had been longing for since not being able to see his children much. He is thankful to enjoy a cozy night in with all his kids, thanks to our generous donors who made it possible.

Dearon was amazed by what the Furniture Bank had to offer, the size and variation of items left him speechless, as it was way more than what he had anticipated. The highlight however, was his experience with our volunteers who scrambled around the warehouse for finishing touches such as vases, framed pictures, and Christmas décor. According to Dearon, this memorable day completed the void he had been feeling for quite some time and it also marked the beginning of a new chapter in his life. At last he can feel at peace knowing his children not only have the delight of their own bedrooms with dressers, beds, and night tables, but even a television to enjoy together with a massive Christmas tree being the cherry on top of it all!

He can't wait to see the look on their faces when they walk through their new apartment, a place they can truly call 'home'! With watery eyes Dearon told us, "This is the most important gift I could ever give my kids this Christmas and that the Furniture Bank could ever give me."

Well, we think it is such a small price to pay for a fairytale ending.

## Philanthropy an Indicator of Strength

Companies that are heavily involved in and supportive of philanthropy perform financially as well as or better than other firms that don't, according to The Wall Street Journal. The story ("How Values Embraced by a Company May Enhance That Company's Value" Oct. 27, 2007) found that businesses that have strong philanthropy programs outperformed companies in the Standard & Poor's stock index by 3.5 percentage points annually over five years.

## Thank you to Capgemini!

### Leading by Example – Some stellar Furniture Bank Supporters

Originally a group of six came to volunteer from Capgemini on October 1, 2011 and Kevin and Vivian found it to be such a wonderful experience that they wanted to come back and do it all over again!

*"I have volunteered with the Furniture Bank twice, with plans to continue helping in the future. After my first visit to volunteer I was warmly welcomed by amazing staff, other dedicated volunteers, and the overall willingness for everyone to help others in need. During my experience I continue to be humbled, realizing I have grown up without worrying about having a bed to sleep or chair to sit on; worries that the Furniture Bank agrees no one should have. While I continue to enjoy helping clients pick out needed items, I also realize that all of the furniture in the building has been donated by others in the community – a truly remarkable expression of people-helping-people throughout Toronto, and one that I want to continue to be a part of." - Kevin, Senior Consultant, Business Application Services*

*"I first volunteered at the Furniture Bank as part of the United Way Day of Caring Event and ever since, I've grown to really enjoy my time there as I see this agency helping a great cause. Being able to help an individual or families furnish their homes with essentials like a mattress or a lamp feels so rewarding. The staff and volunteers are full of enthusiasm and passion; they're always willing to lend a hand anytime, making my time at the Furniture Bank all the more enjoyable. Looking forward to more visits!" -Vivian, Consultant, SA&I*

## 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. 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!

## FB Life



With around 115,000 people in 40 countries, Capgemini is one of the world's foremost providers of consulting, technology and outsourcing services. Together with its clients, Capgemini creates and delivers business and technology solutions that fit their needs and drive the results they want. Learn more at [www.capgemini.com](http://www.capgemini.com).

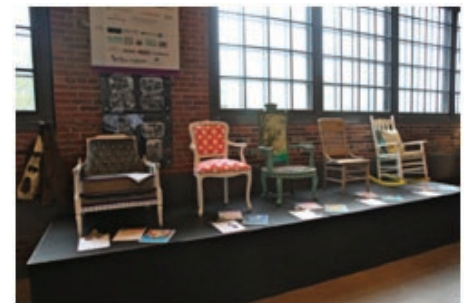
## Second Annual Chair Affair

It was a night to remember with our title sponsor, Streetcar Developments and media sponsor Global Toronto turning the spotlight on 31 of Toronto's hottest designers who poured their hearts and talent into transforming Furniture Bank chairs into works of art.

Susan Hay, hosting the event for the second year at the Steam Whistle Brewery, got the night rolling with 354 party-goers who checked out the creations up for bids in the Silent Auction. While enjoying the music of Chris Smith and delicious hors d'oeuvres from Feast Your Eyes Catering, supporters could read about what inspired designers to create their unique show pieces.

Award-winning auctioneer Barbara Richards presided over the Live Auction, with some extraordinary firsts like a chair by Christina Mogk of MeCC Interiors Inc being auctioned twice and an original blue Hot Stove chair signed by 16 members of the 2008 Toronto Maple Leafs. The team at Love the Design brought a chair that sparked a bidding war and you can view the before/after shots here [Love The Design](#). Brothers Dressler (Jason & Lars) brought new life to a 70's lounge and reworked it into the Cradle Chair. As innovators in the current trends of up-cycling, reclamation and reuse, their philosophy is in good keeping with Furniture Bank's commitment to the environment (last year we diverted 1,292 metric tonnes of waste from landfill). Read about the inspiration behind their design here [Brothers Dressler](#).

An enormous thank you goes out to all our sponsors and the 40+ volunteers who worked the evening to help us run the event smoothly. In all it was a great success with proceeds just under \$100,000. We look forward to celebrating with you again at the 2012 Chair Affair.



## Thanksgiving Bottle Drive

The Beer Store

The 2nd Annual Bottle Drive, sponsored by the Beer Store, was held on Thanksgiving Saturday, October 8th, 2011. Our FB volunteer teams were on hand at 54 Beer Store locations across the Greater Toronto Area and brought in together, a total just shy of \$11,000. Congratulations to all and thanks for your spirit of giving!

If you'd like to be a part of our on-site teams or organize a Bottle Drive in your neighborhood next year, please contact Kam at 416-934-1220, ext.708 or [kgrewal@furniturebank.org](mailto:kgrewal@furniturebank.org).