

Salem Furniture Bank Background & Data

- The Furniture Bank is a volunteer led ministry through Salem Alliance Church in Salem.
- We have a total of 14 volunteers and we use a crew of five people every Saturday to pick up donated furniture and deliver furniture items to families in need.
- We have used 4 different locations to store the furniture in the past 6 years. Each storage space has been donated to us in the past and our current storage facility is 2,200 square feet.
- We have gotten so busy, that we have had to make additional mid-week deliveries in addition to our Saturday services.
- Based on feedback from our social service agencies and families who have requested furniture, we are the only source of “FREE” furniture in the Salem/Keizer area and we are the only source that will actually “deliver” and pick up in the Salem/Keizer area.
- We have not and still don’t advertise our services as we are known by every social service agency in the Salem/Keizer & Marion/Polk County areas.
- In 2023, we worked with 37 different social service agencies who have referred clients to us.
- When I have spoken to different caseworkers, I asked them what they do when we don’t have the furniture items they are looking for. I’ve been told that sometimes they can find other funding sources to buy items, or they refer them to the Community Warehouse in Portland. Otherwise, clients are not getting furniture when they move into housing.
- We will serve over 340 families this year, compared to 225 in the year 2022.
- We delivered over 1,480 furniture items to these families.
- All of our furniture is donated to us, or purchased with funds donated to us. In 2023, we received approximately \$8,000 in cash donations from the Salem Alliance Church and all of the money was used to purchase Twin Size Bed Sets and Bunk Bed sets, as these are the items most often requested.
- We have not and do not receive any governmental assistance.

Here are the number of times we have had to tell people we were out of furniture items:

- An average of 45 families per month (540 per year) call us and say they need “everything,” including beds. They have just moved into housing for the first time and have no furniture at all.
- An average of 11 families per month (132 per year) call us and request a Twin Bed only, as they have other furniture already.
- An average of 10 families per month (120 per year) call us and request a Full Size Bed only, as they have other furniture already.
- An average of 7 families per month (84 per year) call us and request a Queen Size Bed only, as they have other furniture already.

To summarize, this year alone we have told 540 families that we don’t have any furniture available for them, which includes beds.

We have told over 336 families that only needed beds and nothing else, that we didn’t even have a bed for them.

Again, we don't advertise our ministry because we can't even keep up with the demand as it is. The social service agencies in town all know about us and we are the first people they call when furniture is needed.

We fully support the effort to make our State Legislature aware of this huge need in our local communities and in the State of Oregon. Getting people off the street and into housing isn't helping unless they also have furniture to make the housing unit feel like a real home. Especially when children are involved. We are just a volunteer ministry from a local church in Salem doing the best we can with the resources available to us. **The hardest thing for us is walking into an apartment and seeing that adults and children are sleeping on the floor.**

We believe that at the very least: "Every Head Needs a Bed."