

Furniture Bank Client Statements

“I feel more established; it’s completed me to come from the streets to having my own place with furniture. It’s meant progress in my life.”

*“I’ve been able to be successful, to strive. I work and go to school for child development. I’m volunteering at NAYA, working with children, getting experience, training, and they help with certification. **It’s helped me to grow—I knew from the moment I got furniture that I was moving forward.**”*

*“As someone who has mental health burdens, **being able to eat at a table instead of in bed is a big boost to the cleanliness of my home environment**, including sleep hygiene.”*

“I was a single mother who was assaulted and lost our home. When I found a safe place for my son and I to live, the Furniture Bank folks delivered everything we needed to start over.”

“You feel human again...dignity and value was added to my life.”

“Before, I didn’t even want to be home at all. I dreaded it. There was nothing to sit on except for a couple of small chairs. I felt like I couldn’t be here. **I can take care of my own needs more now because I’m at my place to do it.**”

*“I had been working really hard at turning my life around after being in active addiction for over 22 years at only 35 years old. I had just graduated from Shepherds House and was ready to move forward with life. **I saved up all I could from my paychecks to cover move-in costs for an apartment.** We got our keys on January 1st and thought, what a fresh start to a fresh year! It felt so surreal. **The first few days were rough. We had no dishes, no beds, no chairs, no food, no soap.** It was kinda miserable to be honest. It felt so cold and empty still. That’s when Furnish Hope showed up.”*



Case Manager/Advocate Statements

“Furniture Bank funding is imperative in the fight to get people off the streets.”

“We house young parents with 18 months of rental assistance who are homeless and/or fleeing domestic violence. These are usually teens or young adults moving into their first apartment. **The majority of these families do not have items to put in their new apartments.** [Furniture bank resources] are essential to these families to start a new chapter with basic household items.”

“Many of the clients we help move and exit homelessness absolutely depend on our local furniture bank to furnish their new home!”

“Community Warehouse has been a HUGE support with the families we serve. **Many of these pregnant youth and young families rarely have support for furnishing their first home since all the expenses go to supporting their babies and themselves.** Without this resource, these families would not have a dresser to store clothes and baby supplies, plates and kitchen appliances to feed their families, or couches for babies and children to sit on instead of the bare floor.”

“Once someone who has experienced chronic homelessness is approved for housing and reaches the joyous day of move-in, it is essential for individuals to receive access to furniture to make their housing a welcoming and comfortable environment. **With the growing cost of living, it is all the more urgent to include funding for community-based partnerships such as furniture banks, so that we can provide access to affordable household goods.** I fully support the inclusion of furniture bank services in SB 1530!!”

“An apartment is an apartment. A house is a house. But what makes a home is the people, memories, and furnishings. You cannot fully live well if you don’t have a bed to sleep on, or sheets, comforters and pillows. You cannot properly prepare meals if you don’t have the right kitchen utensils, pots, pans, and even microwaves. **We often don’t think about the after - the after they move into a new place after being homeless.** Shelter is important, but also are the necessities that come along with having a home. Furniture is essential for a home for many reasons such as storage, comfort, completing daily activities, and functionality.”

