



Turning Empty Houses Into Homes

The Furniture Co-Op  
30 Morris Avenue, West Haven, CT  
(203) 389-1112

## Mission

Each year, hundreds of homeless people in the Greater New Haven area succeed in transitioning from the streets and shelters into permanent housing. Unfortunately, after spending all of their meager savings on deposits and rent, many of these newly housed people have no money left over to buy furniture.

For some, including children, seniors, and people with AIDS, this situation is a serious health risk that can have deadly consequences. For everyone, having no furniture means uncomfortable home surroundings and poor sleep for nights on end. This can be a critical problem for adults and children who are struggling to succeed at work, in training, or at school.



Sara Callahan, Operations Director, Kellyann Day, Executive Director, and Allen Klein – Warehouse Manager

To meet this need, and help homeless people on the road to self-sufficiency, The Furniture Co-Op was formed in 2007. The Furniture Co-Op is the only program that systematically provides this service in the Greater New Haven area. With a pick-up service, The Furniture Co-Op makes it easy to “recycle” used but usable furniture and household items.

The Furniture Co-Op helps over 500 families each year create a healthy, comfortable home environment for themselves. Each year The Furniture Co-Op helps many groups in need including:

- Homeless moving into permanent housing
- Women and children fleeing domestic violence
- People diagnosed with HIV/AIDS
- Senior citizens
- People with disabilities.

More than half of the people served by The Furniture Co-Op are children.

Through grants and financial donations, along with the donation of furniture from the public, The Furniture Co-Op helps people create a healthy comfortable home environment – a key element in the struggle to stabilize homeless individuals and families and break the cycle of falling in and out of housing.

Since 2007, The Furniture Co-Op has built a network of collaborative partnerships that include more than 20 other local non-profit agencies. These member agencies participate by making furniture requests on behalf of their clients and soliciting furniture donations for The Furniture Co-Op.

## The Furniture Co-Op creates long-term community benefits

**Environmental:** Offers a pick-up service for donors to dispose of furniture they no longer need, allowing those items to be recycled to families in transition for further use. Since 2007, The Furniture Co-Op has diverted thousands of pounds of items from area landfills.

**Financial:** Helps displaced and homeless people stay within their budget and re-stabilize in a home of their own.

**Dignity:** Furniture transforms empty housing into a home, and a home provides a basic foundation of rest and comfort which is essential for success at work and school.

**Health:** Creates a more sanitary home environment for eating and sleeping, to help prevent sickness and disease.

**Social:** Promotes family interaction because people have a dining table and other items that provide a location for gathering and conversations (Imagine Thanksgiving Day without a dining table or Super Bowl Sunday without a sofa).



The 5,000 square foot warehouse is filled with tables and chairs, beds, dressers, living room furniture, housewares and much more.

## Making a Furniture Donation

### Service Area

The Furniture Co-Op offers its donation pick-up service in New Haven County.

## **What Donations Are Accepted**

All donations of usable residential furniture and household items are accepted.

The Furniture Co-Op's major needs include:

- Beds
- Dressers and Chest of Drawers
- Dining Tables and Chairs
- Household Linens (sheets, towels, etc.)
- Tableware, Cookware, etc.
- Lamps and Night Stands

## **How to Donate/Schedule an Individual Pick –Up**

To schedule a pick-up – contact The Furniture Co-Op at (203) 389-1112 or [tfc@nhhr.org](mailto:tfc@nhhr.org). If you contact us other than during our business hours (9:00am to 2:00pm Tuesday and 9:00am to 1:00pm Saturday), a representative will contact you as soon as possible to schedule a pick-up appointment.

## **How to Drop off a Donation**

To drop-off a donation – contact The Furniture Co-Op at (203) 389-1112 or [tfc@nhhr.org](mailto:tfc@nhhr.org) to schedule a drop-off time. The Furniture Co-Op is located at 30 Morris Avenue in West Haven.

All Donations are tax-deductible. People or corporations that donate items will receive a donation statement that can be used for tax purposes. Donation Statements are provided when furniture items are picked up or delivered to The Furniture Co-Op.

## **Corporate Contributions**

Does your company have any non-office furniture just sitting in a storage room or warehouse? Why not move it out and get a tax break, too? Just contact The Furniture Co-Op at (203) 389-1112 or [tfc@nhhr.org](mailto:tfc@nhhr.org), and you will be contacted via telephone or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

## **Making a Financial Contribution**

How your donation helps...

- \$25 provides a bed for a person sleeping on the floor.
- \$50 provides living room furniture for a family with no place to relax together.
- \$75 Provides living room and dining room furniture for a family with no place to gather.
- \$100 provides a complete set of furniture for one person.
- \$300 provides a complete set of furniture and household items for a family of three.