



Making a house a home. Merry Christmas from HomeStart

"I have just received my furniture from HomeStart and am quite thrilled with what we have received. My three boys and I had just moved into Low-Income Housing and were in need of couches, a kitchen table set and other items such as a coffee table, night tables, a desk and a bookshelf. HomeStart has come through for us - we have had some tough times and have been through quite a lot. I was very happy with our new table set as it was made of top quality and all our other furniture was as well. We were so happy that you have helped us right before Christmas and we have a table to sit and eat at and furniture to sit down on when we will be having our Christmas. Thank You HomeStart from the bottom of our hearts. You are all doing such a great job. God Bless and Happy Holidays!" The Johnson family, Vancouver*

It really is a season for being thankful! We are so grateful to the individuals and organizations that have helped us provide over \$160,000 worth of furniture to people in need – helping nearly 900 people make the transition from homelessness to home.

Please help us as we work with over 80 member agencies to help deliver donated furniture to those with the greatest need: single parents, children, refugees, and people with disabilities.

You can help turn a shelter into a home that offers refuge, warmth, physical comfort and dignity. \$275 will furnish a home. All donations, large or small, will help provide this service to the ever-increasing number of people who need it.

*names changed to protect privacy

Marketing firm gives HomeStart some fresh ideas – for free!

Harvey McKinnon Associates donated 24 hours of pro bono marketing work during GoodStock. Many thanks to the team that stayed up all night and produced some amazing creative work!

Heading home to a couch? They're not.



www.homestart.ca  HomeStart Foundation

High School Students win awards with YPI Projects



We were fortunate that groups of students from two Vancouver schools won grants through the Toskan Casale Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). Shown here, students from Gladstone Secondary School with HomeStart's Susan Ferguson. Huge congratulations to them and to the team from Magee Secondary School. \$5000 will furnish 18 homes!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Charity Trucks and our amazing sponsors - Buntain Insurance, Dunbar Insurance, Laura-Leah Shaw ReMax Westcoast Realty and On-Demand Video Production - for your tremendous support! Their advertising on the Charity Truck allows us to have free use of this great vehicle. Ask us about space still available on our new scrolling billboards.
- 1-800-RID-OF-IT for holding the 2nd Annual Great Vancouver Housewarming Party in October and highlighting our partnership – 8 homes were furnished. Their staff work year round to help us pick up furniture and deliver it to families in need.

HomeStart Policies

Pick Ups

- We pick up household furniture free of charge. A minimum \$25.00 donation is encouraged.
- Furniture must be clean, functional and in good repair. HomeStart staff and volunteers can refuse to take any furniture that is in poor shape or of poor quality.
- We prefer to pick up more than one item at a time to use our limited staff and resources most effectively, but will make exceptions for large or much needed items.
- Donors who wish to deliver furniture to our warehouse must make arrangements to do so. Dumped furniture that is poor quality or ruined by the weather needs to be carted to the dump. Please spare us this unnecessary expense so we can focus our resources on getting good furniture to families in need.
- We cannot accept small items like portable kitchen appliances, blankets, pillows or dishes because of our focus on household furniture. If you wish to donate these items, contact Gather and Give at Tel: (604) 637-2250 or info@gatherandgive.org.

Deliveries

- Everyone receiving furniture must be referred to HomeStart by a community partner agency. We rely on our partners to determine who is most in need. Individuals may not request furniture for themselves or their friends.
- We provide items household furniture to families that have none or only a little. We do not upgrade furniture or fill in pieces for families who already have furniture.

Donating is Easy!

It costs HomeStart \$275 for every furniture delivery to families in need.

Costs for part-time staff, renting warehouse facilities and operating a delivery truck add up. If you can help us with a donation to offset these costs, the single mothers, refugees and working poor we serve will continue to get good quality furniture so they can live with dignity in Canada's most expensive city.

Tax receipts are provided for financial donations of \$20 or more. We accept cash, cheques and donations made online though www.canadahelps.org . We also accept gifts of stocks & bonds, RRSPs, insurance policies, annuities and other forms of planned giving.

By law, tax receipts cannot be given for furniture donations unless the donor pays for two independent evaluations.

**Charitable Registration Number:
872814504 RR0001**



You can designate HomeStart Foundation when you contribute to the United Way Campaign at your workplace.

Privacy

HomeStart does not sell, share or lend its mailing list. If you wish to unsubscribe to this e-newsletter, please let us know at info@homestart.ca

Contact Us

To donate furniture, funds or your time, contact:

Nitra Plesko, Coordinator

nplesko@homestart.ca

604.708.9556

604.708.9560 fax

Mailing Address*

HomeStart Foundation
C/o Kitsilano Christian Community Church
1708 West 16th Avenue
Vancouver, BC.
V6S 2M1

**This is a mailing address only. Please do not drop off furniture or other items at this address.*

homestart.ca