



"Having furniture helps me live a healthier life and helps me with my family. I was homeless for over a year – I'm in awe." Client

"Everything is very beautiful, thank you for coming to my rescue. I now have a home I like". Client



HomeStart furnished 389 homes in 2008. That means that 607 people – 229 women, 178 men and 200 children are now living in dignity because HomeStart was able to provide good quality furniture to families and individuals in need.

In the first 2 months of 2009, HomeStart has already delivered 36 kitchen tables, 112 kitchen chairs, 45 easy chairs and 54 sofas. Based on thrift store pricing that's \$11,000 worth of furniture that disadvantaged people received at no cost to them. The cost to keep HomeStart deliveries going is about \$260 per family served.

Meet Nitra Plesko, our New Coordinator

The newest member of the HomeStart team is Nitra Plesko, who joined us in February. Nitra is in charge of that fine balance between donations and deliveries - making sure we are getting a good supply of furniture and arranging to get it to our clients in the most efficient way possible.

Nitra calls herself a people person, with a heart for social justice. "I'm loving the opportunity to talk to people every day who receive furniture from HomeStart and knowing the results – we're the only organization out there providing something so necessary."

On top of working part time at HomeStart, Nitra is a hair stylist who works at Poppy Hair Boutique on West 4th Ave in Vancouver. In 2007, she set up an international Hair School in Thailand, helping women learn a trade. Originally from Prince George, she



Nitra Plesko, Coordinator

loves the great outdoors and went back-packing in Mongolia last summer. She belongs to Urban Journey Church.

Thanks to HomeStart

"I want to express to you my appreciation and gratefulness. You are doing a great job, and our people are being blessed and encouraged by your good work. Now that they are ready for a new start, HomeStart Foundation is doing that for our people. Thanks to all of you and may God keep shining HIS blessing upon all of you."

Carlos Galvez

Belkin House, Salvation Army residential program facility

HomeStart works with more than 80 social service and charitable agencies in Vancouver, Richmond and Burnaby. We get an average of 30 referrals to families and individuals in need of decent furniture to live dignified lives every month. Most of the clients we help are formerly homeless individuals, aboriginal people, single moms and refugees.

HomeStart Policies

Pick Ups

- We pick up household furniture free of charge.
- 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 \$260 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**

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

Thank You for a great 2008!

We were extremely grateful to receive a 1-ton cube van from Charity Trucks in 2008. This 2-year-old van has been donated, with insurance and all maintenance costs, to HomeStart. All we need to pay for is the gas! This miraculous gift means we can deliver more furniture to clients in need far more cost-effectively than ever before. Thanks to Buntain Insurance (www.buntaininsurance.com) and Laura-Lea Shaw of RE/MAX Crest Realty (www.laura-leah.com) for being the first sponsors of our Charity Truck!



HomeStart received more than \$10,000 from each of the following organizations in 2008:

- CKNW Orphans' Fund
- Kitsilano Christian Community Church
- Roff Corporation
- StanJean Foundation
- Trinity Opportunity Fund

Significant donations and support also came from the following organizations:

- 1-800-Rid of It
- Charity Trucks
- Colin Goldie Photography
- Love's Auctioneers



We Need Volunteers!

With part-time staff and a very small budget, the HomeStart Foundation depends on volunteers to make sure furniture is picked up and delivered to needy families efficiently. We need regular volunteers who can:

- Drive our truck to pick up and deliver furniture.
- Move furniture
- Clean our office/warehouse
- Be our drop-in handyman/woman
- Help with administration

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