



# A FRESH START

PROVIDING A FRESH START TO THOSE TOUCHED BY HOMELESSNESS

## THE DATA

14,000 people live at or below the poverty level in Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties.  
(US Census Bureau)

## THE NEED

Simply acquiring basic home essentials: plates, cups, silverware, garbage bags, towels, cleaning supplies, hangers, etc., can be overwhelming. In addition, transitioning households are tasked with finding beds, couches, tables, lamps, and more to allow the home to function.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### New Guest Essentials

- We provide a welcoming gift to new shelter guests and supplemental items if they have an extended stay: pajamas, warm socks, and special pillowcases to make their first nights in a new place more comfortable; toiletries, hair, and skincare products for multi-cultural clients; pampering items such as manicure kits, lotions, and lip balms. For the younger guests, we provide a toy and reading or activity book. We also provide newborn essentials such as diaper rash ointment and extra soft towels for new babies and their moms.

### New Home Essentials

- We provide furniture and home goods to help clients bridge the gap from homelessness to a new home. Through donations and partnerships with businesses, we help people set up their houses, so they have all the essentials to eat, sleep, and gather in their new home.

### A Solid Start

- Partnering with local educators and The Crisis Nursery of Mankato, A Fresh Start provides winter wear, school supplies, money for school trips and more to youth..





## MAKE AN IMPACT

We have established A Fresh Start to maximize the support of our benefactors by keeping overhead low and maximizing each dollar donated. You can make a difference in the lives of people in our community knowing you are a part of a smart solution.

Consider:

- A financial contribution
- Volunteer to pickup and deliver furniture, organize welcome gifts, up-cycle furniture, or triage school needs.
- Donate lightly used household goods or new items for homes or welcome gifts.



### FUTURE PROGRAMS

We are a new organization, and we aren't afraid to dream big! With support from the community, we anticipate adding the following programs:



### MOVING ASSISTANCE

Purchase of a moving truck and developing partnerships with local moving companies.



### VOCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Partner with community members to help our clients gain new vocational clarity and skills, along with connections with hiring decision-makers.

## WHY HELP?

- In Mankato, more than a third of renters pay more than 50% of their income on housing.
- Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties rank worst in the state of Minnesota for cost-burdened renters.  
(JCHS Harvard University & MN Housing Partnership)
- Mankato's Partners For Housing reports that approximately 11 families are provided shelter in one of their Mankato shelters every night.
- In 2020, Partners For Housing provided 9,200 overnight stays.
- Nearly half of those served were under the age of 18.
- 63% of people entering homelessness in 2019 were doing so for the first time.
- As of September 2020, 8,237 households in MN were waiting for long-term housing opportunities.  
(MN Homeless Management Information System)

501c(3)(