



A FRESH START

SERVING ECONOMICALLY FRAGILE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN THE MANKATO AREA.

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:

Welcome Gifts:

- 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, A Fresh Start provides winter-wear, school supplies, money for school trips and more to students in need.





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 your lightly used household goods or new items for homes or welcome gifts.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

We are a new organization, and we have big dreams. With support from the community, we anticipate adding the following programs:

MOVING ASSISTANCE:

Purchase 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.

Application for 501c(3) status in process.

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)