

Home Starter Program

**Furniture and household goods for
those in need who are transitioning
into independent living**



Your First Apartment



Remember furnishing your first apartment?
Mom and Dad might have supplied some furniture and kitchen items, and maybe you found other things at thrift stores

You were probably young and healthy, had a job, and perhaps already owned a car

Not everyone is so lucky!

The Mission of Home Starter



Our mission is to collect furniture and household goods to assist those in need who are transitioning into independent living.

We have helped single mothers coming from abusive relationships or rehab, young people getting their first place after being homeless, and entire families that had been living in their car.

Running Home Starter

- Home Starter began in 2019 as an initiative of the World Service Committee of the Congregational Church of Amherst, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ
- All work is provided by church volunteers and interested community members
- All furniture is donated by our neighbors
- Kitchen kits and bathroom kits are put together with purchased and donated items, for which we conduct periodic collection drives

Identifying Those In Need

Many local service agencies reach out to us when they identify a family or individual in need of our items

- Front Door Agency
- Families in Transition
- SHARE
- Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter
- Greater Nashua Mental Health
- Bridges
- Stepping Stones
- PATH (Philbrook Adult Transitional Housing)
- St. Patrick's Nashua, St. Vincent de Paul
- Harbor Care Health and Wellness
- Merrimack Valley Assistance Program
- Waypoint Family Support
- Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Service

Kitchen and Bathroom Kits



Kitchen Kits

Each kitchen kit includes essential items like these:

- Pots and skillets with lids
- Glass baking dish
- Plastic mixing bowls
- Knives, vegetable peeler
- Manual can opener
- Silicone spatulas, tongs
- Rimmed baking/cookie sheet
- Colander
- Spoons, measuring cups
- Utensils and flatware
- Toaster
- Dish towels, oven mitts
- Dish soap, sponges
- Broom and dustpan
- Garbage can & bags
- Dishes

Bathroom Kits

Each bathroom kit includes essential items like these:

- Bath towel set (2)
- Bathmat
- Drain cover
- Soap dispenser
- Shower curtain, liner, and hooks
- Toilet plunger and brush
- Trash can
- Toilet paper and tissues
- Bathroom cleaner
- Toilet cleaner
- First aid kit
- Small basic toolkit

Storage of Donated Furniture, Kitchen Kits, Bathroom Kits



Home Starter Trailer



Our purchase of a trailer for moving furniture was made possible by a generous bequest to the church.

Impact

- A young mother, referred to us by the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, needed bedroom furniture, including a bed for herself, as well as equipment for her baby.
- A grandmother raising 3 grandchildren needed assistance to furnish the house she had just moved into. Before this, they were living in a shelter. We furnished the entire house.

Impact

Housing Advocate & Property Manager,
The Front Door Agency:

- I can't tell you enough how much your Home Starter program is helping the community. Our clients are incredibly grateful. You all are alleviating not only the financial burden but the emotional toll of living in a virtually empty apartment. Thank you!



Impact

- A mother and two young children, who were moving into Families in Transition housing, needed everything for their house as they had nothing. We furnished the entire house.
- Safe Families asked us to help a young mom and her four children. Before getting an apartment, the mom was homeless, and the children had been in foster care. They were being reunited. The mother had recently lost her job due to lack of transportation. We furnished the entire house.

Impact

NH Coordinator Safe Families for Children & Community Liaison, Bethany Christian Services:

- I wanted to especially thank you and the folks at CCA that helped our client recently with many furnishings for her new place in Bedford. Your group is such a blessing to so many! Our client was amazed and could not say enough good things about all of the help you all gave her.



Impact

Text from a client:

Hi, happy New Year to all of you at Homestarter's! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season!

Thank you for all of your help with the apartment which I adore and am so grateful to have. It is because of these programs and people like you that I have been able to achieve security and stability with a home, which has allowed me to work for a second chance. I just wanted to say thank you.

Impact



Home Starter

Text from a client:

Thank you so much for helping me furnish my apartment. With out you I would still be sleeping on the floor.

Reply:

So happy! Wishing you the best of luck! ❤️ 😊 🙏

Challenges

- Our greatest challenges are recruiting volunteers to transport items and the cost of storage space.
- We began with one or two referrals per month, then 4 or 5, and it has grown from there.
- In 2023, we served over 50 families in need.
- We had to find more furniture storage space. We are now using two rented storage units and a portable storage unit.

Pickups and Deliveries

- We maintain a rotating list of volunteers who have offered to help us with pickups and deliveries.
- If you would be interested in driving, or helping us to pick up or deliver items, please let us know!



More Ways To Help

- Donate funds! We have been able to obtain reduced rental fees for storage space, but we would love to receive donations to help with the cost of storage.
- Donate furniture, household goods, kitchen and bathroom kits



Donate Furniture and Household Items

We need furniture and household items in good condition

- Small kitchen and dining room tables and chairs
- Lamps
- Side/end tables
- Small couches/sofas (no large couches or sleepers please)
- Loveseats
- Clean beds (no kings please)
- Chest drawers (no triple dressers)
- Microwave ovens
- Flat panel TVs in working order
- Clean, gently used bed linens
- Clean flatware and cookware in working order
- Essential bathroom supplies



Questions?