



# The FreeStore Story



May 2013

## Not Better—Just Luckier

By Jeanie Smith

It's always eye-opening and sobering to see the challenges that some of our clients are facing as they set up new households after their stays in the domestic violence shelters. If you don't think of your own life with gratitude for the abundance that most of us have, think again!

As we all know, the majority of FreeStore domestic violence clients are hovering just above, at, or below the poverty line. Many of

them may have been middle class when they were in their abusive relationships, but now have lost the income of the chief breadwinner in their household.

Things were hard when they were in these very damaging relationships, and there's no substitute for the freedom that absence of violence brings to their lives. But one thing that does not improve with this freedom is their financial situations.

If our clients can afford decent housing, that's just a wonderful thing. But we all know that the supply of low-income housing is very limited here in the Des Moines metro area. Sometimes our clients are forced by circumstances to enter apartments that are far less than ideal. One of our clients moved into a house owned by a relative. The house was a duplex and the other part of the house

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## How to Increase Your Donation by 25% - At No Extra Cost

We are fortunate to again be part of the Birdies for Charity drive of the The Principal Charity Golf Classic.

Instead of writing your check to the FreeStore, you can fill out the enclosed form, make the check payable to Principal Charity Classic and send it back to us. If we meet a minimum pledge amount—which we easily did last year—the Birdies for Charity will increase the donated amount by 25%. All gain, No pain!

Or you can log on to our site [www.thefreestore.org](http://www.thefreestore.org), click on the Birdies logo, and make your donation online.

AND If you guess the correct number of birdies, there'll also be a prize for you.

If golf is not your game, just fill out the enclosed donation-card as always and make your check to the FreeStore.

The FreeStore and its clients appreciate all you do—your support ensures our success.

THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!



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## FreeStore Update

By Terry Swanson

The first few months of this year started a bit slowly for the FreeStore. Housing and jobs are still difficult to find and that means families are either staying in shelters longer or moving in with friends or relatives.

Still, from Jan. through Mar. we've served 78 families—including 86 adults and 93 children—some from the shelter and some from other local service agencies

We will be seeing some changes in domestic violence (DA) and sexual assault (SA) services beginning in July. Loss of federal financial support has forced the state to reorganize how DV and SA services are to be available.

The state will now be divided into six zones with only one or two DV shelters in each zone. Each zone will also have additional outreach offices and SA

services. We won't have exact information about services until June or July.

Our zone will include Polk, Jasper, Poweshiek, Warren, Marion, Mahaska, Luca, Monroe, Wapello, Jefferson, Wayne, Appanoose, and Davis counties. The Des Moines CFI shelter will remain open and will accept women from all the counties in this zone. We don't know the status of the Adel and Ames shelters. Though these changes will affect how we are able to help families, we'll do the best we can and keep you updated.

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had been condemned. To say that the condition of these new living quarters was dirty is to make a vast understatement. When our volunteers helped her move her "new" FreeStore furniture into this location, a dead rat was found in a corner. Are our baskets

and buckets of cleaning supplies a God-send for these clients? Yes, they are! And your donations give us the ability to supply these items.

In another case, our client was moving into a new apartment with her sister. Each sister had four children. They were able to get a three-bedroom apartment, but they needed beds for eight kids! Providing four bunk bed sets was crucial for this client—and we met the challenge!

We never know what extra needs these clients have, but we can be sure of a few things: They need everything that anyone would need to start out.

We at the FreeStore are grateful for the support you all give us. Together we are changing lives for the better every week. It's a partnership to be proud of. Sincere thanks to you all.

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# Fill the Mayflower

with lamps, kitchen tables/chairs, kitchenware, microwaves; coffee pots, toasters, pots and pans, etc.

May 10: 10AM-6PM May 11: 8AM-5PM

Valley West Mall

More information at [www.thefreestore.org](http://www.thefreestore.org)

