



May 2016

Supporters By Jeanie Smith, FreeStore Board Chair

Did you know that the FreeStore served 282 families in 2015? That's a lot of folks!! Our population of domestic violence families stays about the same from year to year. Our growth – over 15% increase from 2014 to 2015 – has been in serving needy families that have been referred to us by various social service agencies. Each year we serve new agencies that previously had not known of the FreeStore and the goods and services that we offer.

In part, we have become better known throughout the community because we participate in groups like the Domestic Abuse Coordinating Council

(DACC), where we meet monthly with representatives of many agencies that serve DV victims in Polk County. We also participate in forums run by the Chrysalis Foundation, where we meet with representatives of many non-profit agencies that serve women and girls, and with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, which provides training for non-profit agencies in all sorts of capacities that increase our ability to serve and serve well. We work closely with Children and Families of Iowa, which oversees the Domestic Violence Services in Des Moines, to ensure that we are meeting DV clients' needs.

Some of our volunteers serve in visible capacities – our pick-up crews, our warehouse workers, our greeters and moving crews. But there are many, many others who serve behind the scenes – writing grant applications that, along with your contributions, keep our organization thriving; attending community meetings; serving on our Board; paying our bills and monitoring our finances. If working in any of these capacities appeals to you, please let us know! We are always open to new talents, new ideas, new workers. Email us at info@thefreestore.org or call 515-282-3733 and leave a message for us.



Sponsored by
SAMMONS
FINANCIAL GROUP

Your Donation

+ BFC (Birdies for Charity) match=\$115%

Here's how we'll increase your donation.

We will enter your donation into the BFC fund.

If we reach \$10,000, BAM!

each donation will increase by 15%

Your donation	\$ 50.00
+15% BFC Match	\$ 7.50
Now you've donated	\$ 57.50

FreeStore Update: A Growing Charity—Unfortunately

By Terry Swanson

Each year about this time we finish up our previous year's statistics. Unfortunately, last year's Freestore business was booming. I would love to write some year and tell you, "We don't need your support. There are no more DV (domestic violence) families to help; no more working poor families needing help to get back on their feet; no more children aging out of foster homes, no more single mothers needing beds for their children."

Someday maybe, but not yet.

You make our work possible with your support. How varied is that work? In 2015 our youngest client was a 7-year old girl. For some reason the

court said the girl had to have a bed of her own or go into the system.

Our oldest client was an 87-year old woman. The very spry 87-year old had to go to the hospital for a short while and when she came out, someone had stolen all her furniture!

And in between we saw most every combination imaginable.: young people from Iowa Homeless Youth Centers going out on their own; women (and their children) from domestic violence shelters; men and women with emotional problems who are now getting the help they need; veterans getting their lives back together; couples who lost everything

through some terrible act of fate; single moms who now have jobs and a future for themselves and their kids. The list goes on and on—always people who just need a little boost, a little help to get back to being contributing-members of society.

When one of these families leaves with beds, a couch, and other needed furniture, they always say, "Thank you. You don't know what this means to us." But truly, that thank you belongs to each of you.

I can't say often enough that without your donations and support, the FreeStore would cease. You are our lifeline, and our reason for success.

The Thank You's are yours!

Fill the Mayflower For the FreeStore May 14 8 to 5 at the Valley West Mall

**This year we need twin and bunk beds,
and small household items.
Please, no large furniture.**



**We especially need
vacuum cleaners, twin and queen bedding, lamps,
microwaves, crockpots, toasters, coffee makers, pots
and pans, end tables, coffee tables, kitchen utensils.**

