FreeStore

Annual Report

2017

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Our mission is to support children and families
who have escaped abusive situations.
We provide donated furniture and household goods to clients
of domestic violence services and other agencies
as these families begin new independent,
productive lives in safe environments.

FreeStore Board of Directors

Name/Position	Address
Larry Anderson Treasurer 12years	3109 Meadow Lane West Des Moines, IA 50265
Dave Blaha Director 4 years	8100 Valdez Circle Urbandale, IA 50322
Judy Bloom Director 9 years	4820 Elm St West Des Moines, IA 50265
Christopher Dean Director 1 year	8965 Copper Dr West Des Moines, IA 50266
Rachel McGrew Director 1 year	4720 64th St Urbandale, IA 50322
Diane Munns Director 3 yrs	931 29th St Des Moines, IA 50312
Marty Rathje Chair elect 2 years	114 NW Countrywood Lane Ankeny, IA 50023
Jeanie Smith Chair 7 years	4816 Pleasant St Des Moines, IA 50312
Mike Smith Director 7 years	4826 Cedar Dr West Des Moines, IA 50266
Harry Swanson Secretary 4 years	1561 NW 103rd St Clive, IA 50325
Terry Swanson Director 12 years	1561 NW 103rd St Clive, IA 50325

Message from the Board Chair

2017 was a year of struggle and growth for the FreeStore. Our struggle was to formulate and begin to implement some succession plans. The board of directors looked at the key volunteers – those people who make the FreeStore work on a day-to-day basis – and recognized that we are all aging. If the FreeStore is going to continue to run on a 100% volunteer basis, we need to figure out ways to recruit and train new volunteers and move them seamlessly into the rhythm of our work. The collateral piece of this work involves lifting the oftentimes heavy burden of multiple tasks from a limited number of shoulders.

It would be wonderful if I could report to you that we have done this work and it is complete. But that is not the case. We have made progress, yes. But we will continue to struggle with this key item through 2018.

One thing we did accomplish was to schedule two strategic planning sessions for early in 2018 that will help us to clarify goals and priorities and focus on succession planning work.

In addition, the board voted to move the vice-chair position to a chair-elect position, allowing us to plan more fully for future transitions.

Jeanie Smith
FreeStore Board Chair, 2017

2017 FreeStore in Pictures

USDA Rural Development group dropped off cleaning supplies when they came to tour the warehouse

Fill the Mayflower was promoted by iHeart, Cumulus, and KDFR radio and through thousands of flyers distributed at Fareway Stores

Two classes from Johnston High School visited the warehouse in November and gave us quilts they made

60% of our clients load and deliver their own items

Cleaning Baskets from St Francis in West Des Moines

Hide-a-beds donated to
Disabled American Veterans Agency

2017 FreeStore in Pictures

Every year Christy and Kevin and their children start the holiday season by picking a charity to support. FreeStore was honored with five much-needed bunk bed sets and linens. The children were a joy to watch as they explained how they carefully picked stuffed toys to go with each linen set. What a great way to teach children that local charities contribute to their community's well-being.

Kitchen cookware from the Greater Des Moines Bridge House

Fried chicken donated by KFC

Completed dressers

Getting a table ready to deliver

2017 FreeStore in Pictures

Bunk Bed platform were cut

Dishes were sorted and packed

Dowling teachers moved us
into our Delaware Avenue warehouse

Mattresses from the Clive Fire Department

2017 “Dressers for Kids”

2017 Highlights

To leave an abusive domestic situation,
a woman must also leave her home and belongings.
After a stay in a woman's shelter,
she must begin anew to make a safe home
for herself and her children –
and she has no beds, no dressers, no table or chairs – no items
that turn an apartment into a home.

This is where the FreeStore—an all non-paid volunteer organization—comes in. We collect furniture and household items and store them in a warehouse. When a woman leaves a domestic abuse shelter, she can come to our warehouse and choose whatever items she needs for her new apartment. FreeStore volunteers even move her items to her new apartment. Additionally, because the Des Moines community has been so supportive, we also are able to serve other families in need that are sponsored by local social service agencies.

- In the past three years we have given furniture to 773 families, including 896 adults and 1275 children.
- It costs about $300 to service a family; the average family of 4 gets $2600 of gently-used furniture. In 2017 we served 229 families and gave away over $403,000 worth of items; our expense was $83,000.
- For every dollar of our cost we were able to give away over $5 worth of goods.
- Some items we gave away in 2017 include 400 sheet sets, 550 blankets/comforters, 500 kitchen chairs, 370 mattress sets, 214 couches, 86 microwaves. We gave away a total of 7960 items.
- In 2017 we gave away (recycled) 392,000 pounds of furniture—some of which would have gone into the landfill.
- When we have surplus of items we allow other social service organizations to use our services for a nominal fee of $60 to $200. In 2017, we served 36 agencies. Our largest clients are the Children and Families of Iowa Domestic Violence Services shelter, Iowa Homeless Youth Centers, and the Polk County Family Enrichment Center.

FreeStore is a member of the Polk County (Iowa) Domestic Abuse Coordinating Council, and the Furniture Bank Association of North America. FreeStore is an Iowa registered 501(c)(3) corporation and is listed on the Iowa Register of Accountability. Copies of our tax returns are on file at GuideStar USA.

2017 FreeStore Client Data

Clients Served

	Total families helped	Adults	Children	Total
2017	229	265	397	662
2016	262	299	378	677
2015	282	331	477	808
2014	244	278	391	669

Families with Children

		Requests	**Women**	**Men**	**Children**
Families with Children	**74%**				
Single parent families		142	140	2	319
2 parent Families		28	52	5	76
Families with no children	**26%**				
Single person families		52	42	10	
2 or more persons in family		7	11	3	
		229	**245**	**20**	**397**

* 62% of the families we help are single parents with children; 92% of our clients are women; over 98% of single parents we serve are women

Client Data by Family Type

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total families helped	244	282	262	229
Adults	278	331	299	265
Children	391	477	378	397
DV clients*	121	120	127	92
ICIW**				6
Needy clients	95	133	94	99
Youth	27	26	39	31
Refugee	0	2	1	0
Vet	1	1	1	1
Shipped $/family	$1804	$1744	$1652	$1440
Tons/family	0.85	0.81	0.78	0.66

*The FreeStore served Domestic Violence clients from Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS), Children and Families of Iowa – Domestic Violence Services (CFI-DVS), Crises Intervention and Advocacy Center (CIAC), Latinas for a New Dawn (LUNA), and Monsoon United Asian Women in Iowa in 2017.

2017 FreeStore Client Data

2017 Partner Agencies and Organizations

Assault Care Ctr Extending Shelter and Support 19
Children and Families of Iowa (CFI) 6
CFI-Domestic Violence Services 62
Child Development Center 1
Crisis Intervention & Advocacy Center 4
Community Support Advocates 1
Disabled American Veterans 1
Department of Human Services 9
Downtown Disciples Church 1
Eyerly Ball 6
Highland Park Church 1
Holy Trinity Church 1
Home, Inc. 1
Iowa Homeless Youth Center 26
Latinas for a new Dawn(LUNA) 6
Mainstream Living 1
Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Center 37
Monsoon 4
Mt Hebron Church 1
Orchard Place 4
Polk County Family Enrichment Center 27
Primary Health Care 2
Refugee Resettlement (Catholic charities) 1
Sequel Youth Services 1
St. Johns Lutheran Church (downtown) 1
St. Timothy Episcopal Church 6
Trinity Methodist Church 1
Urbandale Community Action Network 1
VA Hospital 1
West Des Moines School 1

NOTE: FreeStore gave these organizations items we couldn't use: Animal Rescue League, Joppa, St Vincent DePaul, and Urban Bicycle Food Ministry

Client Ethnicity

	Ethnicity	Client Requests	Percentage
	African American	66	29%
	Asian	14	6%
	Caucasian	102	45%
	Hispanic	21	9%
	Other/Multi	26	11%
Total		**229**	

FreeStore Financial Statements

Financial Activities

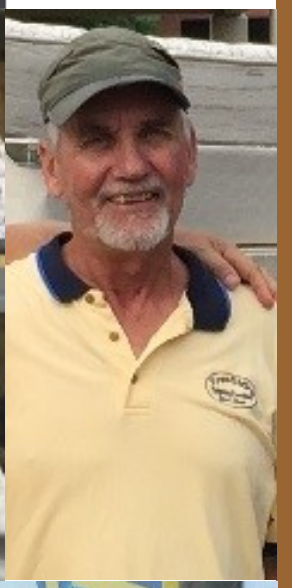
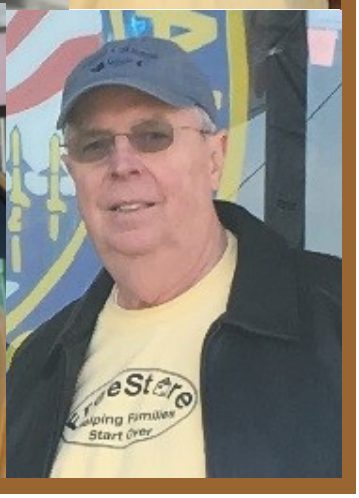
For the years ended Dec. 31: 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Unrestricted net assets:				
Revenue and other support:				
Contributions:				
Noncash support	$452,513	$493,656	$424,448	$525,587
Cash support	$94,945	$68,055	$73,925	$89,228
Restricted	$0	$0	$0	$0
Other income	$1,513	$31	$31	$22
Services & shirt sales	$10,086	$9,816	$13,575	$9,415
Release Temporarily Restricted Contributions	$0	$0	$0	$0
Unrealized gains/losses	$31,846	$8,702	$(2,025)	$8,416
Total revenue/other support	$590,903	$580,260	$509,954	$632,668
Expenses:				
Program services	$465,179	$509,091	$566,515	$520,904
Management and general	$48,647	$52,095	$54,720	$50,839
Fund-raising	$4,355	$2,801	$4,409	$3,342
Total expenses	$518,181	$563,987	$625,644	$575,085
Increase in unrestricted net assets	$72,722	$16,273	$(115,690)	$57,583
Changes in temporarily restricted net assets:				
Temporarily restricted contributions	$0	$0	$0	$0
Release Temporarily Restricted Contributions	$0	$0	$0	$0
Increase in unrestricted net assets	$0	$0	$0	$0
Increase in net assets	$72,722	$16,273	$(115,690)	$57,583
Net assets at beginning of year	$403,934	$387,661	$503,351	$445,768
Net assets at end of year	$476,656	$403,934	$387,661	$503,350

FreeStore Financial Statements

Balance Sheet

Years ending Dec. 31: 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014

Assets	2017	2016	2015	2014
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	$56,189	$55,123	$67,308	$69,790
Investments	$237,506	$190,660	$182,578	$184,603
Inventory	$177,429	$150,444	$127,963	$237,694
Total current assets	$471,124	$396,227	$377,849	$492,087
Transportation equip net depreciation	$5,532	$7,707	$9,812	$11,264
Total assets	$476,656	$403,934	$387,661	$503,351
Liabilities and net assets				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued expences	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total current liabilities	$0	$0	$0	$0
Net assets:				
Unrestricted	$462,330	$389,608	$376,335	$489,025
Temporarily restricted	$4,326	$4,326	$4,326	$4,326
Permanently restricted	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
Total net assets	$476,656	$403,934	$387,661	$503,351
Total liabilities and net assets	$476,656	$403,934	$387,661	$503,351

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