FreeStore

Annual Report

2018

Domestic Violence Awareness month poster - Oct, 2018

©2018 FreeStore, Inc.

We support children and families
who have escaped domestic violence situations and
those suffering from some other form of trauma,
including natural disaster and criminal assault.
We provide donated furniture and household goods as
these families begin new, independent, productive lives
in safe environments.

FreeStore Board of Directors

Name/Position	Address
Larry Anderson Treasurer 13 years	3109 Meadow Lane West Des Moines, IA 50265
Dave Blaha Director 5 years	8100 Valdez Circle Urbandale, IA 50322
Judy Bloom Director 10 years	4820 Elm St West Des Moines, IA 50265
Christopher Dean Director 2 years	8965 Copper Dr West Des Moines, IA 50266
Rachel McGrew Director 2 years	4720 64th St Urbandale, IA 50322
Diane Munns Vice Chair 4 years	931 29th St Des Moines, IA 50312
Marty Rathje Chair 3 years	114 NW Countrywood Lane Ankeny, IA 50023
Jeanie Smith Director 8 years	4816 Pleasant St Des Moines, IA 50312
Mike Smith Director 8 years	4826 Cedar Dr West Des Moines, IA 50266
Harry Swanson Secretary 5 years	1561 NW 103rd St Clive, IA 50325
Terry Swanson Director 13 years	1561 NW 103rd St Clive, IA 50325

Message from the Board Chair

2018 was a busy year for the FreeStore as we helped families begin new lives. The FreeStore served 290 families in 2018, an increase of 61 families (26%) over 2017. Of the 290 families served in 2018, 89 were domestic violence clients. In addition, we served 4 clients who were recent releases from Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. In total, we served 760 persons in 2018, up from 662 in 2017. Of those 760 people, 455 were children. We served clients in the Greater Des Moines area with most of them in Polk County.

The FreeStore provided about 450,000 pounds of furniture and household goods in 2018, up from 370,000 pounds in 2017 and the value of the 2018 goods we estimate to be worth $525,000.

A highlight of 2018 was the induction of Harry and Terry Swanson into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame in recognition of their founding and nurturing of the FreeStore. As an indication of the journey Harry and Terry began for us, the first few years the FreeStore had 3 or 4 volunteers; in 2018 we operated with 0 paid employees and over 100 non-paid volunteers

Our 2018 cash expenses were approximately $100,000. Major expenses were for warehouse rental, truck maintenance, and purchase of items for clients. All but $10,153 of our cash expense was direct client assistance.

Our cash income for 2018 was over $102,000. The majority of our income derives from donations from individuals and grants. About $12,000, or around 11% of income, comes from a small charge for our services to non-domestic violence agencies for services provided.

2018 was also a year of looking forward as our Board engaged in a strategic assessment of our operations, which resulted in:

- development of an operations manual
- initial design of a new website
- formation of an Executive Committee to streamline board action.
- focus on rewarding, recruiting and managing volunteers, including instituting volunteer of the year award, recognizing long serving volunteers, holding a volunteer recognition reception, and working on succession plans for important positions.

Marty Rathje
FreeStore Board Chair, 2018

2018 Highlights

Sometimes, through no fault of its own,
a family finds itself in a situation where it needs to start anew:
Sometimes it is a woman and her children who leave an abusive situation,
Sometimes it is parents and children who have become homeless
Sometimes it is a mother recovering from a devastating illness
Sometimes it is a young person aging out of a support program
Sometimes it is a veteran recovering from PTSD
Sometimes it is a person with mental problems.
In many cases, when these families get housing,
They struggle to furnish them.

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, or a family receives support from a social services agency, the FreeStore offers its services. The family can come to our warehouse and choose whatever items are needed to furnish an apartment. For domestic violence families, FreeStore volunteers even move the family's chosen items to the their new apartment.

- In the past three years we have given furniture to 781 families, including 869 adults and 1230 children.
- It costs about $300 to service a family; the average family of 4 gets $2600 of gently-used furniture. In 2018 we served 290 families and gave away over $492,000 worth of items; our expenses totaled $99,900.
- 90% of our expenses go directly to client assistance.
- For every dollar of our cost we were able to give away over $5 worth of goods.
- Items given away in 2018 include 480 sheet sets, 660 blankets/comforters, 630 kitchen chairs, 420 mattress sets, 224 couches, 121microwaves. We gave away a total of 9256 items.
- In 2018 we gave away (recycled) 453,000 pounds of furniture - some of which would have gone into the landfill.
- When we have a surplus of items, we allow other social service organizations to use our services for a nominal fee of $60 to $200. In 2018, we served 42 agencies. The agencies with whom we partnered most frequently are the Children and Families of Iowa Domestic Violence Services shelter, Iowa Homeless Youth Centers, and the Polk County Family Enrichment Center.
- FreeStore volunteers worked 9400 hours in 2018.

FreeStore, Inc is a member of the Polk County (Iowa) Domestic Abuse Coordinating Council, is registered in Iowa as a nonprofit corporation, and is listed in the Iowa Register of Accountability. Copies of our tax returns are on file at GuideStar USA.

2018 Happenings

Norwalk High School Industrial Technology class made 15 dressers for the FreeStore. Thanks to them and to Mr. Wheeldon. What a great learning experience for these boys.!

Holy Trinity Ankeny delivering to a DV client in March

As part of the 2018 National Volunteer Week celebration activities across the country, Lt. Governor Adam Gregg inducted Harry and Terry Swanson into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame. Harry was a founder of the FreeStore and Terry one of the first volunteers. Together they established the FreeStore as a 501c3 charity and were instrumental in its growth as Iowa's first, and only, furniture bank.

Chrysalis Foundation facilitated strategic planning in April with the board and key volunteers. We are moving forward with four strategic goals and a 3-year plan to meet the goals.

Chrysalis Foundation made a Community Partner award to FreeStore

It was a rainy start but we were pleased to Fill the Mayflower with small household appliances in May.

Thank you to Divine Word Seminary in Epworth Iowa which donated 60 twin mattresses in July. We appreciate the work of all the volunteers who helped.

"Days like today are our favorite! IHYC was happy to share that we were able to help Elijah move into his own apartment! Huge thank you to the FreeStore for helping furnish his place so it feels more like a home! We are so excited to see all that Elijah accomplishes!" (From April 25th IHYC Facebook posting)

Our volunteers will remember Labor Day 2018 for a long time! Two Men and a truck made two trips and FreeStore trucks made 10 trips to clean out 122 rooms at the Sleep Inn in Clive. At the end we had cut 122 dressers from the walls, and collected 100 mattress sets, several hundred lamps, dozens of chairs, ironing boards, irons, alarm clocks and waste baskets.

2018 Donations From

DSM Bridge Center in December

Carlisle UMC in October

United Way of Central Iowa Dressers for Kids in September

Edgewater in October

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Chrysalis Foundation	BWA Foundation
Polk County Board of Supervisors	Beta Sigma Phi
Prairie Meadows	United Way of Story County
United Way of Central Iowa	Churches Outreach Group
Amazon Smile	LWBJ
All Our Individual Donors	DWX Internet Services

AND TO THE FOLKS WHO

Work in the warehouses
Deliver for DV families
Pickup furniture
Meet families
Schedule furniture pickups
Schedule families
Pick up food
Enter client data
Write newsletters
Manage our financials
Write Thank You notes
Write grant applications

AND

Do all the other tasks that keep the FreeStore running

FreeStore, Inc.
1020 24th St.
West Des Moines, IA 50266
515-282-3733
Website: www.thefreestore.org
Email: info@thefreestore.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FreeStoreWarehouseDSM
Twitter: FreeStore (@FreeStoreDSM)

2018 FreeStore Client Data

Clients Served

	Total families helped	Adults	Children	Total
2018	290	314	455	769
2017	229	265	397	662
2016	262	299	378	677
2015	282	331	477	808

Families with Children

		Requests	**Women**	**Men**	**Children**
Families with Children	**68%**				
Single parent families		181	154	27	411
2 parent Families		16	27	5	44
Families with no children	**32%**				
Single person families		85	61	24	
2 or more persons in family		8	15	1	
		290	**257**	**57**	**455**

* 62% of the families we help are single parents with children.

Client Ethnicity

	Ethnicity	Client Requests	Percentage
	African American	114	39%
	Asian	3	1%
	Caucasian	137	47%
	Hispanic	25	9%
	Other/Multi	11	4%
Total		**290**	

Client Data by Family Type

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total families	282	262	229	290
Adults	331	299	265	314
Children	477	378	397	455
DV clients*	120	127	92	89
ICIW**			6	4
Needy clients	133	94	99	146
Youth	26	39	31	51
Refugee	2	1	0	0
Vet	1	1	1	0
Shipped $/family	$1744	$1652	$1440	$1813
Tons/family	0.81	0.78	0.66	0.78

*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), Nissa African Family Services, and Monsoon United Asian Women in Iowa in 2018.
**Released from Iowa Correctional Institution for Women.

2018 partner Agencies and Organizations

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

NOTE: The FreeStore gave these organizations items we couldn't use: Animal Rescue League, CFI Shelter, Joppa, St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Vincent DePaul, and Urban Bicycle Food Ministry

FreeStore Financial Statements

Financial Activities

For the years ended Dec. 31: 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

	2018	2017	2016	2015
Unrestricted net assets:				
Revenue and other support:				
Contributions:				
Noncash support	$436,834	$452,513	$493,656	$424,448
Cash support	$88,078	$94,945	$68,055	$73,925
Restricted		$0	$0	$0
Other income	$168	$1,513	$31	$31
Services & shirt sales	$14,224	$10,086	$9,816	$13,575
Release Temporarily Restricted Contributions		$0	$0	$0
Unrealized gains/losses	$(18,733)	$31,846	$8,702	$(2,025)
Total revenue/other support	$520,570	$590,903	$580,260	$509,954
Expenses:				
Program services	$557,969	$465,179	$509,091	$566,515
Management and general	$59,392	$48,647	$52,095	$54,720
Fund-raising	$5,315	$4,355	$2,801	$4,409
Total expenses	$622,676	$518,181	$563,987	$625,644
Increase in unrestricted net assets	$(102,106)	$72,722	$16,273	$(115,690)
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	$(102,106)	$72,722	$16,273	$(115,690)
Net assets at beginning of year	$476,656	$403,934	$387,661	$503,351
Net assets at end of year	$374,550	$476,656	$403,934	$387,661

FreeStore Financial Statements

Balance Sheet

Years ending Dec. 31: 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

Assets	2018	2017	2016	2015
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	$63,891	$56,189	$55,123	$67,308
Investments	$218,773	$237,506	$190,660	$182,578
Inventory	$88,530	$177,429	$150,444	$127,963
Total current assets	$371,194	$471,124	$396,227	$377,849
Transportation equip net depreciation	$3,357	$5,532	$7,707	$9,812
Total assets	$374,551	$476,656	$403,934	$387,661
Liabilities and net assets				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total current liabilities	$0	$0	$0	$0
Net assets:				
Unrestricted	$360,224	$462,330	$389,608	$376,335
Temporarily restricted	$4,326	$4,326	$4,326	$4,326
Permanently restricted	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
Total net assets	$374,550	$476,656	$403,934	$387,661
Total liabilities and net assets	$374,550	$476,656	$403,934	$387,661

570 tons of furniture:
$1,086,018
Helping 1,000 Families Start Over:
Priceless
FreeStore