



2021

**Annual
Report**





Our Motto:

Helping Families Start Over

Our Mission:

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.

Year End Review

Executive Summary

The Covid pandemic continued to impact FreeStore operations in 2021. Some of our referring agencies were either shut down or restricted from seeing clients for all or part of the year and some volunteers opted to stay home because of concerns on contracting Covid. However, there were still significant increases in both client activity and donations compared to 2020. Through it all, we feel we have remained true to our mission; even if we did have make changes to accommodate clients, volunteers and donors.

In 2021, the FreeStore served 317 families, including 405 children. We served 101 domestic violence families and we expanded our mission in 2021 to start serving victims of sex trafficking through relationships with Dorothy's House in Des Moines and Youth Shelter Services in Ames.

About 451,000 pounds of furniture and household goods were provided to clients and agencies which we estimate to be worth approximately \$519,840. We served clients in central Iowa with most of them in Polk County.

The FreeStore operates with 0 paid employees and around 120 volunteers. Reported volunteer time in 2021 was around 8,000 hours!

Our 2021 actual expenses were around \$69,000. Major expenses were for warehouse rent, truck maintenance, and purchase of items for clients. All but around \$9,000 of our expense was direct client assistance.

Our income for 2021 was over \$131,000. The majority of our income comes from donations from individuals and grants. About \$15,000, or around 12% of income, comes from a small charge for our services to non-domestic violence agencies for services provided.

2022 presents the usual challenges of securing enough donations of goods to meet needs and recruiting and retaining volunteers to meet the expanding needs of the Central Iowa community. An additional challenge in 2022 is to cover a budget increase due to warehouse rent increasing to adjust to market rates and the cost of doing an overdue paving of our parking lot. But, thanks to the diligent work of Larry Anderson, our treasurer, we now have a long term lease for our space which provides us stability for our operations.

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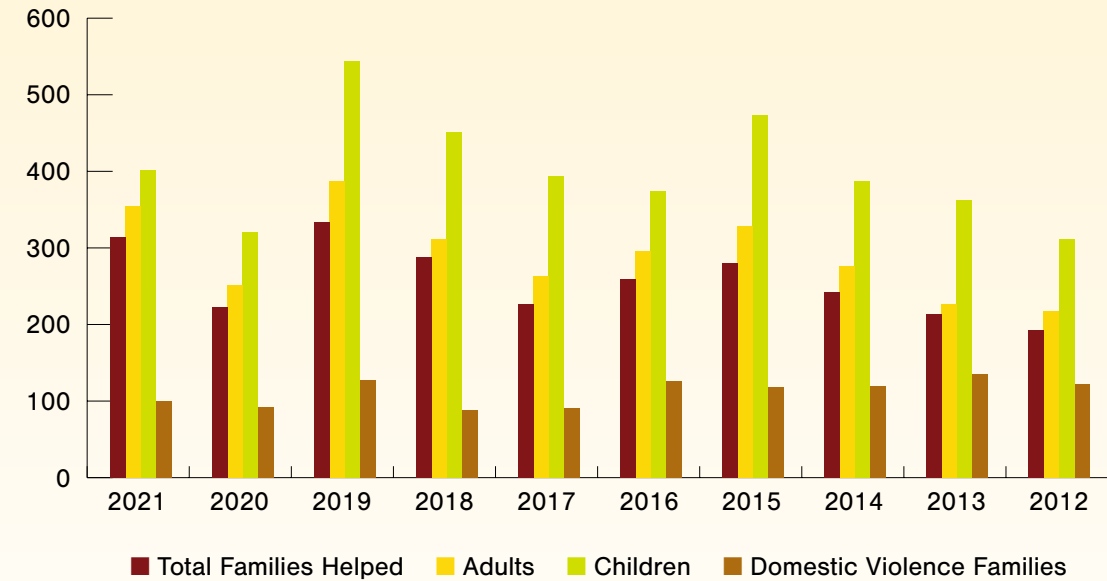
Volunteers make it happen at the FreeStore, including kids. Pictured left, one of our pint-sized volunteers proudly carries a cleaning basket that will go on the truck. She's part of a volunteer group from Bankers Trust, above, that helps clients pick out household goods in our warehouse. The items are then loaded on one of our box trucks and delivered to the client's home. In the background are donated mattresses for our clients.

Client Self-Identified Race

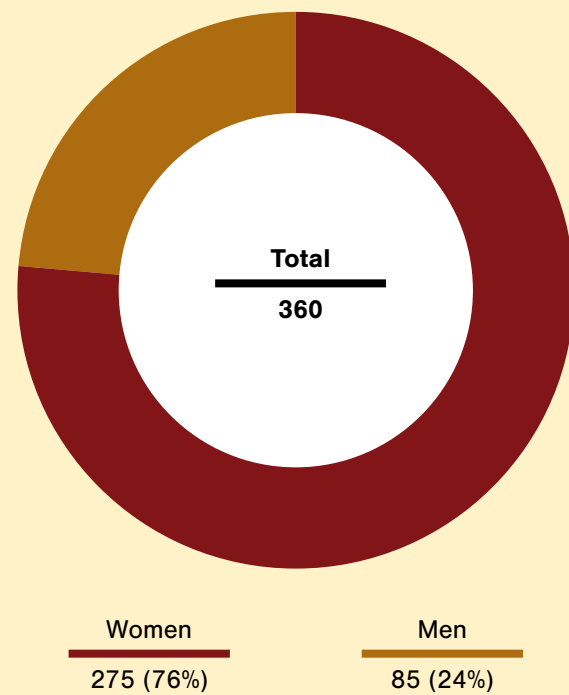
Ethnicity	2021		2020*		2019		2018	
	Clients	%	Clients	%	Clients	%	Clients	%
African American	116	37%	82	36%	129	38%	114	39%
Asian	2	1%	6	3%	1	0%	3	1%
Caucasian	151	47%	105	47%	163	49%	137	47%
Hispanic	37	12%	25	11%	27	8%	25	9%
Other/Multi	10	3%	7	3%	16	5%	11	4%
Total	317		225		336		290	

* The Covid Pandemic impacted operations in 2020.

10 Year View of Client Data



Gender of Adult Clients



Volunteers Mike Smith and Bill Brentano are pictured with our new truck in 2019. While we still use two other trucks, a replacement truck was a major, much needed expense.

Client Data by Family Type

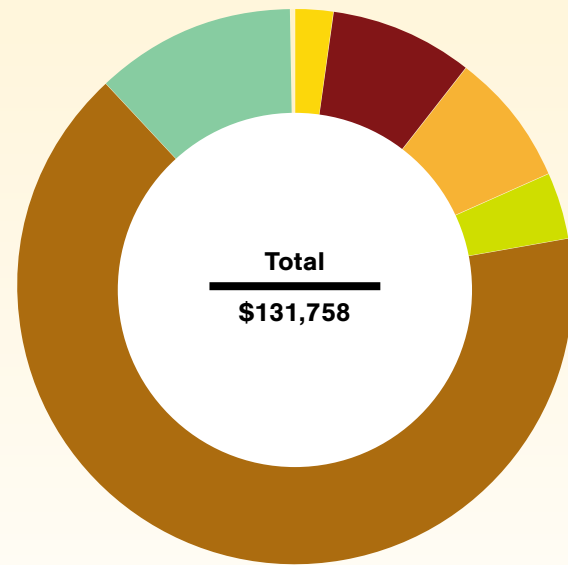
	2021	2020*	2019	2018	2017	2016
Families helped	317	225	336	290	229	262
Adults	358	253	389	314	265	390
Children	405	324	549	455	397	378
DV clients [†]	101	93	129	89	92	127
ICIW [‡]	2	3	4	4	6	
Needy clients	133	86	159	146	99	94
Youth	59	31	43	51	31	39
Refugee	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sex Trafficking	4					
Vet	12	12	1	0	1	1
Estimated value of goods in thousands	\$520	\$468	\$683	\$526	\$451	\$530
Total estimated weight of goods (in tons)	226	184	274	226	186	212

* The Covid Pandemic impacted operations in 2020.

[†] 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), Latinos for a New Dawn (LUNA), Nissa African Family Services and Monsoon United Asian Women in Iowa in 2020.

[‡] Released from Iowa Correctional Institution for Women.

2021 Cash Revenue



Total
\$131,758

Churches

\$3,225

Social Service Organizations

\$ 10,750

Corporations

\$10,488

Foundations

\$5,100

Individuals

\$86,462

Fees

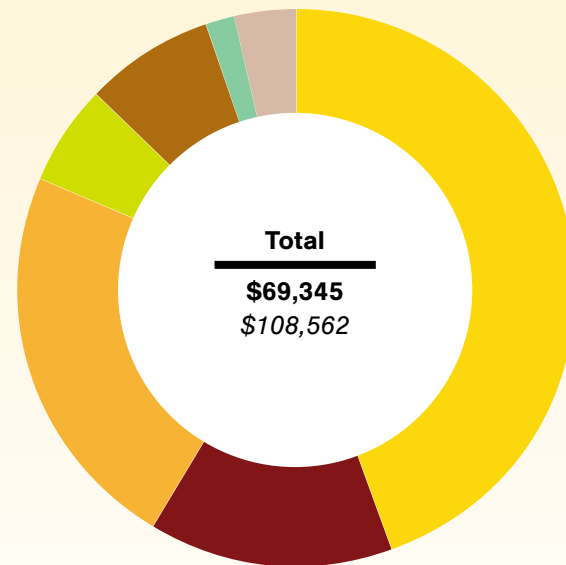
\$15,400

Other

\$333

2021 Expenses

2020 Expenses In Italics



Total
\$69,345
\$108,562

Warehouse

\$30,994 \$34,241

Trucks

\$9,692 \$16,074

Materials

\$15,901 \$11,329

Insurance

\$4,065 \$4,579

Fundraising/Marketing

\$5,182 \$4,127

Office operation

\$1,166 \$5,372

Miscellaneous

\$2,331 \$1,047

Salaries

\$0 \$0

Replacement Truck

\$0 \$31,793

All but \$8,600 of expenses goes directly to client assistance

Agency Activity

Agency	2019	2020	2021
Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support - ACCESS	19	22	21
ACCESS – Boone County		1	1
Aging Advocates			3
Altoona Kids			1
Animal Rescue League – ARL	14	6	8
Amerigroup			1
Broadlawns Path			1
Beacon of Life			1
Bond of Unity	8	1	4
CFI	9	12	30
CFI-DVS	77	58	59
Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Center – CIAC	18	7	3
Christ Apostolic Temple			3
Dad's With a Purpose	1		1
Des Moines Public School	1	3	10
Des Moines Refugee Support			3
Disabled American Veterans			3
Department of Human Services – DHS	8	3	16
Dorothy's House			5
Eyerly Ball	12	6	20
Family Life Center			2
Home Opportunities Made Easy – HOME, Inc	1		1
Iowa Homeless Youth Center – IHYC	45	31	59
Joppa		2	3
Latinex Immigration			2
LUNA	12	9	12
Lutheran Services	1	1	1
Midlowa Family Therapy Clinic – MIFTC	27	15	14
Monsoon	1	1	1
Nisaa African Family Services	2	2	6
Orchard Place	5	6	5
Polk Co Family Development and Self Sufficiency – FADSS	5		9
Polk County Veteran Affairs			1
Restore			1
Royal View	2	1	1
Shepard of the Valley Lutheran			1
St. Timothy's (Women at Well)	4	3	2
St. John Lutheran	1	3	2
Trinity United Methodist			1
VA Central Iowa		11	7
Veterans Affairs		1	4
YMCA Supportive Housing Campus			3
YSS – Lighthouse			3



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