



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Rachel Lewis
Community Relations Manager, MAP Furniture Bank
rlewis@mapfurniturebank.org
(614) 272-9544 ext. 212

LOCAL FAMILIES NEED YOUR HELP Agency Short on Mattresses for Clients

COLUMBUS, Ohio - MAP Furniture Bank (MAP) needs local residents to donate their gently-used mattresses to help families in need.

MAP, a nonprofit organization providing free furniture to central Ohio families for more than 10 years, has seen a dramatic change in its operations over the past few weeks: the number of families needing help is up and furniture supply is down.

"We are feeling the effects of the economy," said Jim Stein, president, "more and more people are turning to MAP Furniture Bank for help and we are overwhelmed by the growing need."

This year, MAP expects to provide a houseful of free furniture to more than 4,000 new families, 300 more than last year. 125 mattresses are needed each week to meet the demand.

"Right now we are turning away some families because we simply don't have enough furniture," said Stein. "In Franklin County, parents who cannot provide a bed for their children run the risk of having them placed in foster care. We need to increase our mattress supply soon because many of these families turn to us for help."

MAP offers free pick up within a week and provides tax receipts for local furniture donors. Donated furniture items are distributed directly to families in central Ohio, typically within two days.

About MAP Furniture Bank: MAP provides free furniture to neighbors in need. Nearly 80 percent of client families earn less than \$10,000 annually and are dealing with severe life challenges ranging from previous homelessness to mental disability. For more information, visit: www.mapfurniturebank.org or call (614) 272-9544.

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