

# chair 2022 Impact Report ity.

# A Letter From the Executive Director

2022 has been a year of growth and program development for Chair-ity. After expanding in Cuyahoga county in 2021, we took this year to engage with many youth we served to reflect on ways in which we could better support them while they transition to independent living. One of the most consistent responses we received was having more variety in our stock. To be able to offer more of a variety, we had to expand storage space to gather more inventory. We also had to work to strengthen and build relationships with partners and donors to gather more furniture donations. In March of 2022, we found the perfect beginner warehouse. Located in the Cudell neighborhood, on the border of Cleveland and Lakewood we now have over 5,000 square feet of space to store a large variety of inventory.

This inventory has allowed to give our clients more of a choice in the furniture they receive. Choosing furniture for their new place is one of the first choices they have been able to make for themselves. Having the ability to select and arrange their own furniture gives them a sense of ownership and pride in their new space - a privilege they were not previously granted. Converting an empty space into a welcoming new home causes an inner conversion for these youth - renewed self-awareness, heightened personal responsibility and a strengthened work ethic to maintain and keep this new place they can finally call home. When a youth finally has a place to call home, and a space they take pride in, we see that pride transform into pride they take in themselves.

This year, while we paused on geographic expansion, program development and organizational growth took president. This focus helped us better understand our clients needs and what we can do to set them on the best path towards success. We will never stop listening to their feedback on ways we can make our programming more compatible to their needs. This year served as a reminder to never stay complacent in what we are doing and to continue to find ways to better serve this community.

Together, we can make a difference, create better life outcomes and encourage systemic change.

Thank you,  
Maria Paparella  
Executive Director

# Chair-ity's Mission

Chair-ity is committed to removing the financial barriers and emotional stresses of creating a home for youth aging out of foster care and beginning independent living.

# What is Chair-ity?

- Chair-ity is a 501(c)(3) that collects donated furniture and household goods for redistribution to youth who age out of the foster care system.
- Chair-ity works with county and Bridges social workers and other community partners to provide services to “graduated” youth as they begin living on their own without the support of family, friends or foster care.
- Chair-ity contacts the youth to discuss their furniture needs and delivery logistics, and coordinates with other community nonprofits to ensure that all housing needs are addressed. Chair-ity provides at no cost used furniture and household goods along with new bed sets (mattresses, box springs and bed frames).
- Chair-ity also provides cribs and new beds to children of the youth who are aging out of foster care.

# Chair-ity by the Numbers 2022

**284** Apartments outfitted by Chair-ity with furniture and household goods since inception.

**2814** Total number of furniture items delivered through 2022

**70** Emancipated youth served in 2022

**22** Children of youth served in 2022

**940** Furniture items given to emancipated youth in 2022

**6** Number of counties Chair-ity serves

**1** Number of organizations in Northeast Ohio working directly with county and Bridges social workers to help youth who age out of foster care with furniture and household goods at no cost

# Referring Partners

- A Place 4 Me
- Ashtabula County Children Services
- Beech Brook
- Bellefaire
- Cadence Care
- Coleman Professional Services
- Community of Hope
- Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services
- Fill This House
- Fostering Independence
- Front Line Services
- Lake County Children's Services
- Medina County Job and Family Services
- National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP)
- Northeast Ohio Adoption Services (NOAS)
- One Step at a Time
- Pathway Caring for Children
- Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY)
- Stark County Children Services
- Street Outreach Services (SOS)
- Summit County Children's Services
- YWCA - Greater Cleveland

# Upcoming Fundraisers



Picture from 2022 Tailgating Event

## Tailgating for Chair-ity

- This will be the Third Annual Event
- Typically held early November/ Late October depending on Browns schedule
- Looking forward to having you join us at the Pro Football Hall of Fame for this fun indoor, tailgating event to cheer on the Browns while they are on the road
- Please visit: <https://Tailgate2023.givesmart.com> to register to attend or sponsor

## Golf Event

- September 11th, at MayField Country Club
- Please visit: <https://golfforhome23.givesmart.com> to register to attend or sponsor

# Success Story





Alexcia is one of 8 siblings who spent the majority of their childhood in and out of different homes within the foster care system. At 22, she is moving into her own apartment for the first time.

Before our delivery she was sleeping on a futon that she received secondhand. With the help of Chair-ity, she now has a fully furnished 1-bedroom apartment. Alexcia shared with us that without Chair-ity's services, she would have been paying out of pocket to furnish her apartment. The average cost to furnish a 1-bedroom apartment is \$3,400. With this burden off of her plate, she is free to focus on her new job, and says she plans to use her newly freed finances wisely, though she may buy herself something nice for her birthday later this month.

**“It feels like home,” Alexcia said of the transformation. “I’ve always wanted a place to call my own since I didn’t really have one growing up. I’m excited to make something like that for myself.”**

Alexcia still maintains contact with her 7 siblings and birth mother, even after spending several formative years apart. She is looking forward to inviting them over to her new apartment to celebrate her birthday with them.

## Alexcia's Success Story



# Chair-ity, Inc. Board of Directors

## **Maria Paparella**

Executive Director, Chair-ity, Inc.

## **Joseph E. Reece, Chairman**

CEO, Helena Capital Advisors LP

## **Ron Anderson**

CEO Western Reserve Chemical

## **Cheyenne Boyd**

Emancipation Resource Specialist, Summit County Children's Services

## **Christine Kohls**

CEO Raising Results LLC.

## **Joe Pease**

Chairman, Pease CPAs

**For more information please visit: [www.chair-ity.org](http://www.chair-ity.org)**