

chair 2023 ANNUAL REPORT ity.



Tax ID: #47-2298771

www.chair-ity.org
mpaparella@chair-ity.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

3 CHAIR-ITY BY THE
NUMBERS

4 A LETTER FROM
THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

5 OUR PROCESS

6 DELIVERY
PROGRAM

7 WAYS TO GET
INVOLVED

8 SUCCESS STORY
Meet Diamond

9 FUNDRAISERS
*Chair-ity's 2023 Golf and
Tailgate events and how to
get involved in 2024*

11 LIST OF
PARTNERS
*corporate donors and
volunteers, foundations,
referring partners, families
and individuals that give
their time, talent and
treasure and other friends
of Chair-ity*

13 FINACIAL REPORT
revenue breakdown

14 BOARD & STAFF

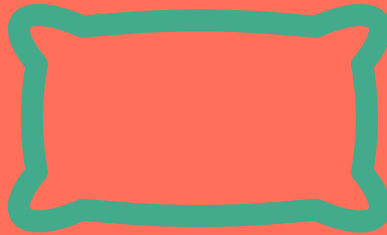
15 THANK YOU

176

people who
received services

in-kind donation
value of furniture

\$32,165



2023

by the numbers

Full Time
staff

2

160

community
partners

beds given
at no-cost

113

22.8 tons

of furniture saved
from landfills

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER

Dear Friends,

I am grateful to have your support. In the past nine years, Chair-ity has grown tremendously. What started as a fully volunteer-run organization based in Summit County has grown to serve six counties in northeast Ohio with full-time staff. To date, we have furnished 347 apartments, serving 369 young adults and 180 of their children. In the first eight months of 2023, we served more young adults than any full year in the past. I am excited to announce that Chair-ity has decided to expand our mission. In the past, we only served youth who have “aged-out” or been emancipated from foster care. After listening to clients with lived experience and partners who work closely with this population, we learned that these terms no longer fully serve what our mission has set out to do. Now, we serve any young adult who has experienced significant time in care and is beginning independent living without family support. As we expand our verbiage surrounding the population whom we serve, we continue to stay true to our mission of creating home and will always turn to partners and clients whom can shed light on how we can be better advocates and resources.

We are increasingly serving more young adults and we do not expect this number to slow. Nationally, systems fail to find permanent families for one-half of older youth in foster care. While the overall number of people in foster care has declined, those in foster care between the ages of 16-21 are less likely to leave care with permanent families now than they were in years past. This is where Chair-ity comes in!

These numbers alone cannot capture the impact of our work. Without our generous donors and volunteers, what we do would not be impossible. I hope sharing our impact, program and the stories you read on the following pages illustrate a snapshot of our work and the resilience of our clients. By providing furniture we are giving more than a comfortable place to rest, we are creating a home, a safe haven, a renewed sense of self. Thank you for your support.

Together we can,



Maria Paparella
Executive Director & Founder



OUR PROCESS



1

RECEIVE DONATED FURNITURE

Donors fill out a submission form on our website for the furniture items they want to donate. Once we confirm the items are in good and usable shape, we hire movers and a truck, and schedule pickups within Cuyahoga and Summit counties.



2

PICKUP & WAREHOUSE

Our hired movers go straight to donors' homes to pick up the furniture and bring it back to our warehouse to be stored until needed. Donors also have the option of dropping off their items directly at our warehouse.

3

RECEIVE FOSTER REFERRAL

Social workers from the Department of Child and Family Services and other programs in 6 counties of Northeast Ohio refer young adults aging out of foster care to our organization.



4

CONTACT REFERRALS

We reach out to each referral directly to confirm the items needed, then schedule a delivery.



5

CONNECT REFERRALS WITH VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers get involved to help our referrals choose which furniture items they want from our inventory at the warehouse. They get to know them a bit better and share photos from our virtual inventory, curating a personalized space with them.



6

DELIVER FURNITURE

Our movers help us deliver the chosen furniture items straight into the young adults' homes and assemble everything once inside.

We try to make it as easy as possible for our referred youth!



7

CREATE A HOME

Volunteers help personalize the young adults' new space by helping them hang wall art, position furniture, and add finishing touches to make it feel like home.

MAKE CONNECTIONS

If the young adults have further needs, we connect them with other community resources where we have partnerships. We also stay connected to those we serve and follow up with them 3 months after deliveries to ensure we have helped them to the best of our ability.

8



DELIVERY PROGRAM

Our delivery program was created with the young adult in mind. Not only does the young adult receive furniture to fill their home, Chair-ity delivers all items, and our team brings everything into the apartment and sets it up at no cost to the young adult. On average it costs approximately \$4,000 to furnish a small one-bedroom apartment even if purchasing the items from a thrift store. This could mean choosing between groceries or purchasing a bed. Chair-ity is committed to removing these barriers.

Having a home provides youth with a sense of community and rootedness which eases the stress of what may be next. A bed improves their quality of sleep, and makes them ready and



rested to take on a new day. 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 has a sense of home and a space they take pride in, we see that pride transform into self-confidence.

one of
a kind



While there are several programs that provide furniture, Chair-ity's full-service delivery, coupled with communication with social workers and community partners not only makes it a unique program in NEO, but only one of two organizations in the entire United States that is committed to helping this specific population create a space they can call home.

~\$4,000

average cost to furnish a 1 bedroom apartment

100%

of youth we serve are
low-income individuals

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

DELIVERY

MUSCLES NEEDED!
Load the pre-selected furniture into the truck, unload the items into the apartments, and help set them up to turn houses into homes!



BOX PACKING

Help repackage donated kitchen items into ready to go boxes so they can be easily put on the truck for deliveries.



DESIGN

This opportunity can be done in person or virtual. Video chat or go to the apartment to see the young adult's house to find out what will fit and help them shop our inventory to choose items that fit their design preferences. Help them turn their dream home into a reality!

D.I.Y & HANDY WORK

Come to our warehouse to help sand, paint, and refinish items that need a little extra TLC. Some of our other items need put together or some screws tightened. If you are handy or like arts and crafts this volunteer opportunity is perfect for you!



DIAMOND, 23

Diamond, recently received our services after spending several months homeless and sleeping in a tent. She is currently in the Bridges program which helped her find housing - a third floor walkup attic apartment that she shares with her partner, who also aged out of foster care. They came with only what they could carry, and without Chair-ity's services, they did not know how they could afford to furnish their new space. "Furniture is very expensive," Diamond said. "I would have still been sleeping on an air mattress and eating off of paper plates and plastic silverware that I had to continue bleaching." That was their only plan until they were referred to Chair-ity. The stairs leading to their apartment were so tight that the first couch that was chosen for Diamond did not make it, but we made a promise to furnish her space.

We scheduled a second delivery with a slightly smaller couch that we were able to fit up the stairs and complete her apartment. She also received a coffee table, end table, TV stand, desk, dining table, dresser, bookshelf, kitchen goods, lamps, and a new bed and bedframe. Diamond was so overjoyed when her small attic apartment started to feel like a cozy new home.

Chair-ity's mission is to remove the financial and emotional burden of transitioning from foster care to independent living by creating a sense of home. Diamond explained that with our help she no longer had to spend everything she earned on furniture and living essentials, and with the financial flexibility she would "plan on saving. When you experience homelessness, you gain an understanding of money and saving." Foster kids do not choose to be foster kids, yet the choice forever changes the trajectory of their life. When they age out of the system, nearly 25% become instantly homeless. With Chair-ity's help, they are able to get back on their feet and begin a life where they are in control. Now, Diamond and her partner are both enrolled in classes at Tri-C, as well as working full time to support themselves. We see a bright future for them and are honored to be part of their support system!





GOLF OUTING

SEPTEMBER 2023

In September, Chair-ity hosted our first-ever golf outing at Mayfield Country Club. This SOLD OUT event hosted multiple companies and friends of Chair-ity.

After a day of golfing, networking, bidding, and supporting our mission this event raised over \$20,000! We cannot wait to host this event again on September 9, 2024. If you are interested in playing or your company would be interested in sponsoring, please scan or click the QR code for more information



Save the Date

September 9th, 2024



TAILGATING FOR CHAIR-ITY



The 3rd Annual Tailgating for Chair-ity was held at the Pro Football Hall of Fame while we cheered on the Browns as they won against the Ravens. This casual event brings together our Akron and Canton supporters.

In 2023 we heard two impactful stories from young women we served. Kourtney spoke publicly for the first time in front of a 180-person crowd about her transition from being in foster care to choosing to be homeless while finishing high school, to earning two college degrees. She now has a full-time job and we are thrilled to be a part of her successful transition into independent living and adulthood.



Additionally, we captured Alexianna's story on video as she told us about her foster care experience which led her to be a senior in high school experiencing independent living. We could not be more proud of her as she was accepted into five colleges!

Tailgating for Chair-ity raised over \$71,500! We are beyond grateful for our sponsors, attendees, and volunteers who made this event possible and will continue to allow us to turn houses into homes.



VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Abraham Family
ADP
Aging Out Institute
Alquist Family
Akron Community Foundation
Angela Sass
Anthony J. and Susan E. Family Foundation
Backyard Gatherings and Events
Baird - Haws Falasco Group
Balint Family
Barberton City Schools
Barbish Family
Barsella Family
Bauer Family
Bindtech
Brennan Manna Diamond
Brilliant Muse
Britt Harrington
Burns Family
Burton D Morgan Foundation
Butcher \$ Son Excavating and Demolition
Butcher Family
Cara Bickford
CASA of Summit County
Catherine Kepley
Chez-Del Interiors
CIBC Bank
Clara Legeay
Community West Foundation
Compass Payroll Services
Cook Family
Corall Family
Crystal Contracting
David and Joann Robbs
Dawson Family
Delmedico Family
Diamond Club/Hudson Baseball
Diana Wheeler
Dinieri Family
Dregalla Family
Easton Family
Elk and Elk
Erin Nanni
Evenor Fund
Farmers National Bank
Farro Family
First National Bank
Flipfort
Fraley Family
Franco Family
Gersman Family
Glogore Family
Graf's Garden Shop
Grant Thornton
Griswold Family
Hall Family
Harmony House
Heather Ryan
Higley Foundation
Hull Family
Hummel Funeral Homes
Hyland Software
Italian American Business Professional Club
J.P. Morgan
Jacqueline Hunt
Jane Prem and Steve Comunale
Jim Bowen
Jim Stone
John Carrol University
Jones Family
Kathleen Buck
Kathryn Barnes
Ken Ganley, Nissan Mayfield
KeyBank
Kowit and Company
LEGACY of Wells Fargo
Leo Longville
Lexus of Akron Canton
Lisa Webber
Lockton
Lohman Family
Lowery Family
Marcum LLP
Marra Family
Martha Lanning
Matuszak Family
May Family
McCormick Family
Medvedev Family
Merrill Lynch - Carpas Group
Meye Charitable Foundation
Mike Klein
Miller Family
Momen Family
Mylott Family
O'Neil Family Charitable Fund
Ohio Real Title
OnSite PT

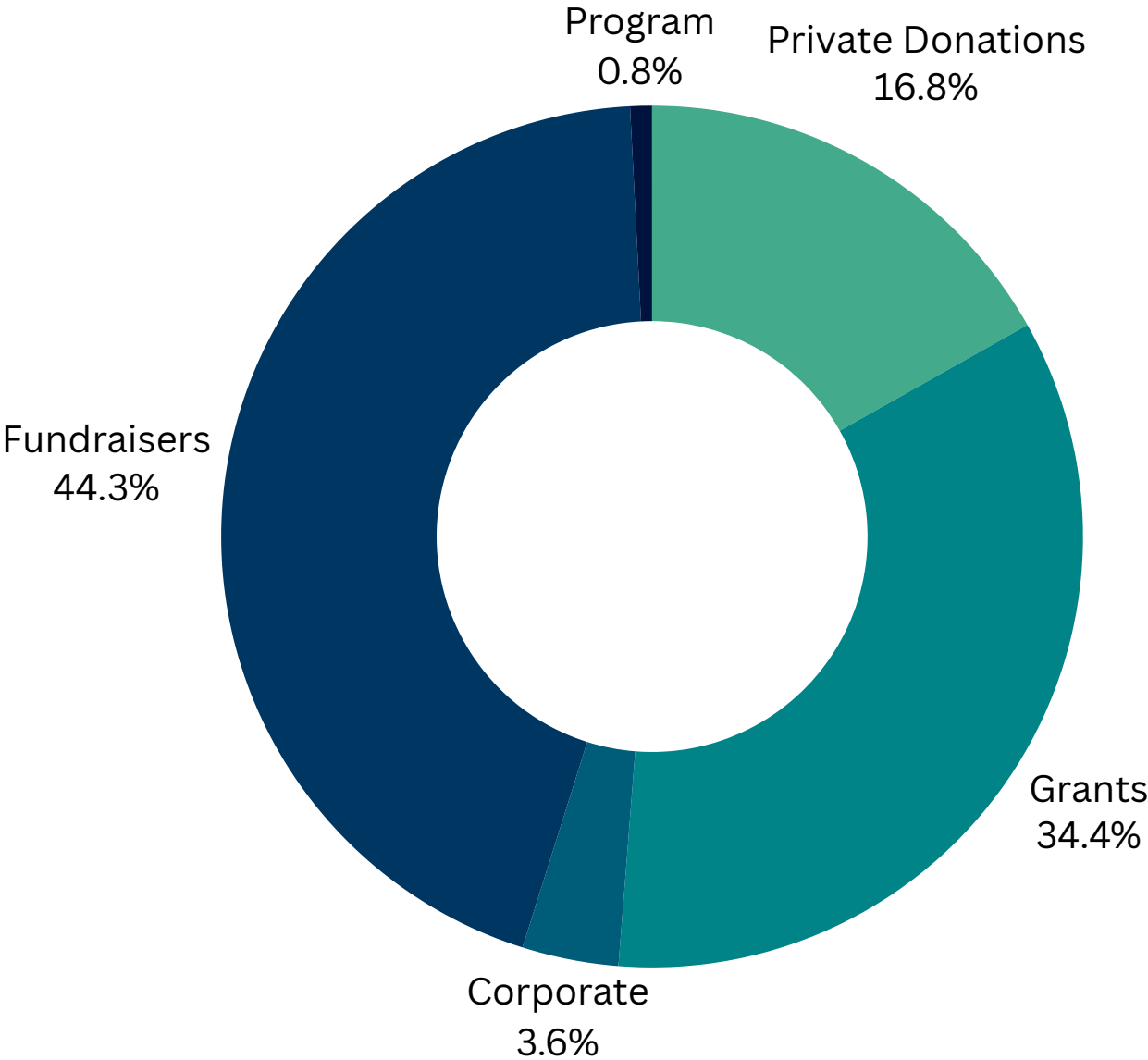
VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS CONTINUED

Paparella Family	Smucker Family
Patrick Mylott	Smyers Family
PCNA	Sommer Family
Pease Bell CPAs	Stefanik Iosue & Associates
Plum Tree Team Tovanche	Swagelok
Porras Family	Szomjassy Family
Ramey Management Solutions	Tami Kowit
Read Family	Tami Kowit
Reinberg Family	Teri Hembree
Reserve Management Group	Thatcher Foundation
Robert Marks	The Durkee Family
Rodriguez Family	The Helen F. Stolier and Louis Stolier Family Foundation
Saltis Family	The Scanlon Group Co. LPA
Sanders Chiropractic and Fitness	The Tavern of Mayfield
Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell LLP	Thomas J Coltman Foundation
Schultz Family	Thompson Hine
Shawnee Trail Tree Farm	Timko Family
Signet Capital Advisors	Ulmer LLP
Signet Equity Partners	United Way
Silver Box Capital	Vasko Family
	Vincent William Baran Day of Service Fund

REFERRING PARTNERS

A Place for Me
 Ashtabula Job and Family Services
 Beechbrook
 Bellefaire
 Candence Care
 Cleveland Angels
 Community of Hope
 Department of Child and Family Services, Cuyahoga County
 Fill This House
 Fostering Independence
 Frontline Services
 Hope and Healing Battered Women's Shelter
 Lake County Children's Services
 Laura's Home
 Northeast Ohio Adoption Services (NOAS)
 National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP)
 Pathway for Caring
 Pressley Ridge
 Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY)
 Summit County Children's Services
 Street Outreach Services (SOS)

2023 Financial Review



- Fundraisers:** Revenue from both golf and tailgate events
- Program:** Donations given when furniture donations are picked up
- Grants:** See foundations in the donors' section
- Corporate:** See corporations in the donors' section
- Private Donations:** Donations from individual supporters



2023

BOARD MEMBERS



Joe Reece
Board Chair
Silverbox Capital, LLC.



Cheyenne Boyd
Summit County
Children's Services



Howard Groedel
Ulmer & Berne, LLP



Christine Kohls
Raising Results



Joe Pease
Garland Industries



Michele Porras
KeyBank

STAFF



Maria Paparella
Executive Director
& Founder



Jaz Henn-Robinson
Program Manager


We couldn't have done it without your generous *support.*

Thank you


to all our donors
and volunteers.




Any support helps
us continue turning
houses into homes

 mpaparella@chair-ity.org

 www.chair-ity.org

 (330) 814-1056

 @chairitynonprofit

 /chairitynonprofit

 @Chair-ity, Inc.

