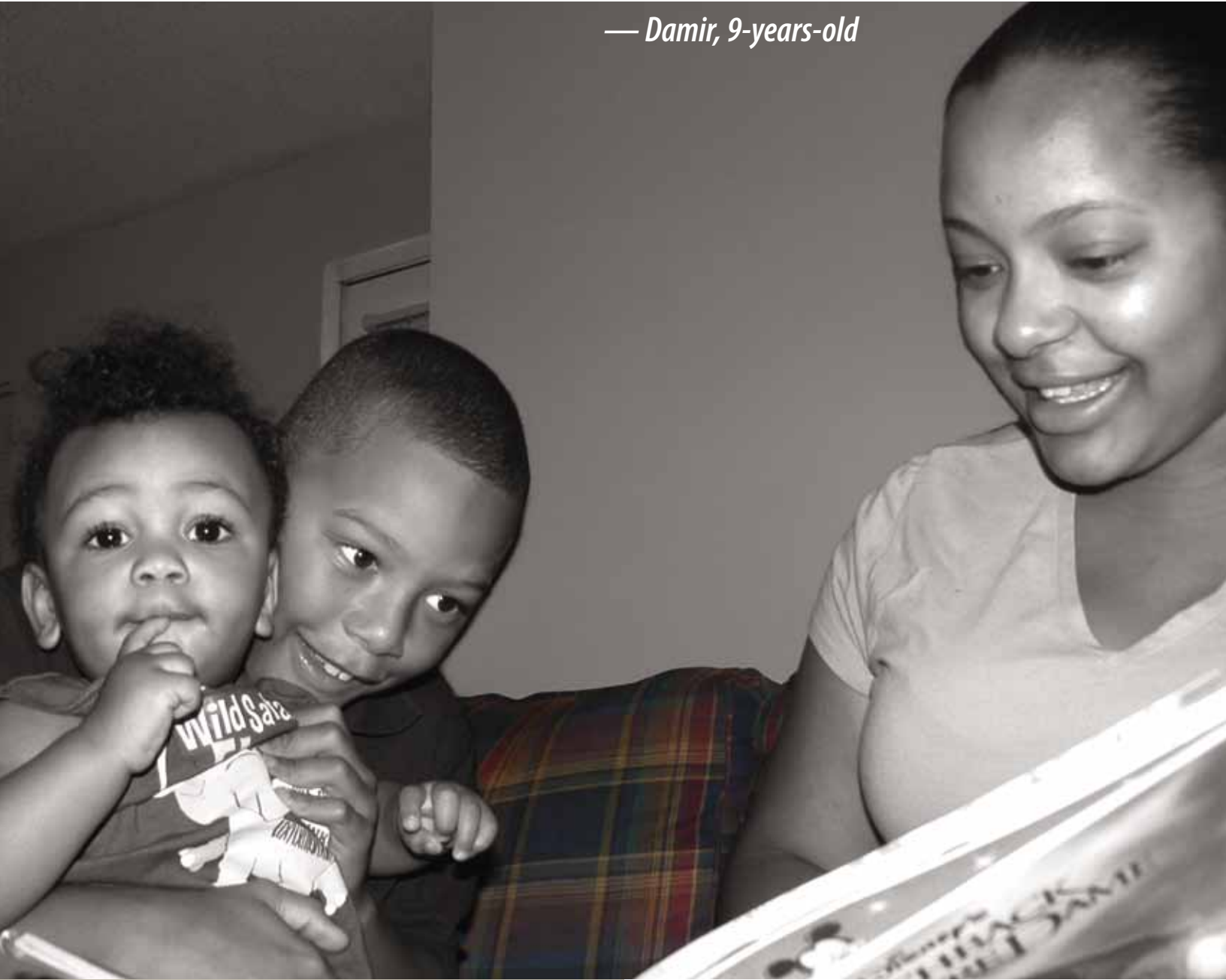


"At first it wasn't a house to me because we had no furniture and our family would come over and they would have to sit on a couch made of chairs."

— Damir, 9-years-old



Imagine going home to an empty house— bare walls, no chairs, no kitchen table, no bed. For some people, living, eating, and sleeping in rooms without furniture is an unfortunate reality.

We at the Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta believe that living spaces should be filled. Furniture not only fills a house with practical comfort, but also instills a sense of hope and dignity.

Thankfully, many individuals, businesses and congregations believe in the Furniture Bank’s mission: encourage independence and sustainability, enhance Atlanta’s non-profit services, and engage the Atlanta community in service. We are the product of partnership and community support. Join us as we continue to serve Atlanta.

Encouraging Independence & Sustainability

The Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta works to improve the lives of people in our community by distributing essential home furnishings to displaced individuals and families. In 1988, the Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta was established in response to the lack of furniture resources for homeless people who secure housing. Before the Furniture Bank, many of these individuals and families had no furniture, and were forced to sleep and eat on the floor. We help make a house a home.

Each year the Furniture Bank serves at least 3,000 people in over 1,000 families. Clients include:

- Formerly homeless individuals and families
- Women and children fleeing domestic violence
- People with HIV/AIDS

After paying rent, deposits, and utility fees, the Furniture Bank’s clients have little or no money to purchase furniture, even at thrift store prices.

A furnished home environment increases clients’ drive for self-sufficiency and encourages them to maintain permanent housing. The Furniture Bank helps break the cycle of homelessness.

Additionally, the Furniture Bank offers storage space for individuals and families being evicted from homes and apartments. For 90 days people can store family keepsakes and furniture items in the Eviction Protection Program storage units.

Over 90% of the Furniture Bank’s clients remain in safe and stable housing 3 months after receiving furniture.

Furniture Bank at a Glance*

Households Served	1,157
Total Number of Individuals	3,045
Total Number of Children	1,699
Total Pieces of Furniture Distributed	16,634
Total Value of Furniture Distributed	\$1,145,500
Value of Furniture Per Family	\$990

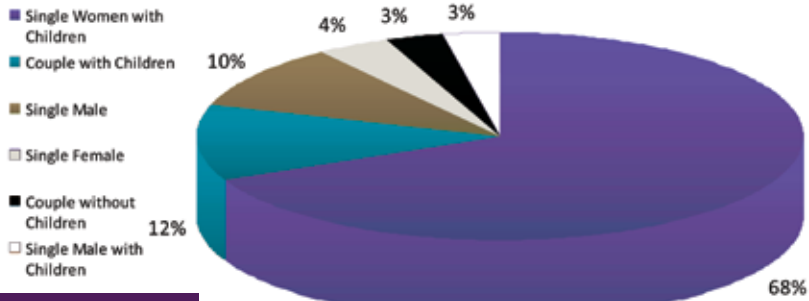
* 3-year average of households and individuals served annually

Enhancing Atlanta’s Non-Profit Community

The Furniture Bank enhances the services of other non-profit organizations. Over 150 non-profit agencies rely on the Furniture Bank to provide furniture to their clients. It is much more cost effective for one agency in the community to collect and distribute furniture on a large scale. This ensures that clients have a selection of furniture from which to choose and prevents homeless shelters and other agencies from spending their time and resources collecting furniture when that is not their primary mission. The Furniture Bank is the only agency in the Atlanta area whose mission is to provide free furniture to individuals and families in need.

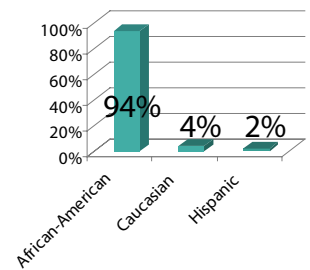
Hundreds of community partners make this possible. From individual donors, who utilize our free pick-up service, to congregations that host Furniture Drives, to corporations that support us financially, the Furniture Bank’s success is a product of community support.

Household Composition



Giving people furniture frees up money to spend on food, clothing and other needs.

Race



Statistics

Engaging our Community – Volunteering/Internships

Each year, hundreds of individuals, business leaders, university students, church groups, and school groups volunteer at the Furniture Bank. Volunteers have the opportunity to assist the Furniture Bank's clients, help with our regular donation operations, and work on special projects like dresser assembly and other building projects.



Each year the Furniture Bank recycles 420 tons of furniture that might otherwise go to a landfill.



Everyone Can Make a Difference

Join the hundreds of individuals, corporations, congregations and non-profits that make the Furniture Bank a success. You can partner with us in several ways.

Give – The Furniture Bank needs monetary donations to fulfill its mission of providing furniture to over 3,000 people in need each year. Donations cover the costs of running two trucks to pick up donations, operating a warehouse for storing furniture, and occasionally purchasing mattresses when donations do not meet client demand. Donations can be made online at www.furniturebankatlanta.org or by sending a check payable to the Furniture Bank to: 538 Permalume Place, 30318. For questions or more information on how your donation will make a difference in the lives of Furniture Bank clients contact Megan Anderson at 404-355-8530 ext. 225 or manderson@furniturebankatlanta.org

Donate – The Furniture Bank provides a free pick-up service for donors in Fulton, Cobb, Gwinnett, or DeKalb counties. If you have good, usable household furniture, call the Donations Coordinator at 404.355.8530 ext. 222 to get on our donations schedule. Also visit us online at www.furniturebankatlanta.org to find out more about the donations we need most.

Volunteer – There are a variety of volunteer opportunities at the Furniture Bank including: Furniture Repair Crew, Warehouse Clean-up Crew, and Client Ambassador.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 404.355.8530 ext. 223 to schedule a service date.

When Ryan, 28, and Safiyyah, 26, arrived home after their Furniture Bank appointment they plopped on their new bed and admired their new furnishings.

"It was like we just moved again, and it was a new house," Safiyyah said with surprise. "It's like someone actually lives here, we are not just visiting." Damir, her 9-year-old son, ran to his room to jump on the bed.

A couple years ago Ryan and Safiyyah met on a Greyhound bus trip. Both were contemplating a move to Atlanta, fell in love, and decided to start their new lives together. Safiyyah and son Damir sold all their belongings, raised extra money by working as pool hands at their apartment complex, and moved.



On many mornings young Damir told mom that sleeping on the floor was hurting his back and asked how much longer before he got a bed.

After living with family and friends, which Safiyyah characterizes as a 'train wreck', the couple got a place of their own. During their time in Atlanta, Safiyyah, Ryan and Damir have lived in many places including Riverdale, Decatur, and now Stone Mountain. On many mornings young Damir told mom that sleeping on the floor was hurting his back and asked how much longer before he got a bed. Meanwhile, Safiyyah, late in her pregnancy, spent the summer watching television on the floor. Fortunately, Safiyyah and Ryan discovered a local agency that referred them to the Furniture Bank.

"When we didn't have furniture it was like living out of our bags. We were always ready to move again," Ryan said.

Now the family, even ten-month-old Josiah, agrees that their house feels like a home. Instead of lining up chairs in the shape of a couch or having guests sit on the floor, the family can offer guests a sofa to relax on and a dinner table to gather around.



"...we can't get by without places like the Furniture Bank. Having them provide furniture frees up income that we need to spend elsewhere."

— Safiyyah, Furniture Bank client

"We are just thankful there are places like the Furniture Bank where people are willing to give," Ryan and Safiyyah said.

"Having agencies like the Furniture Bank helps people a lot. When we went to get a furniture voucher we said 'thank God

that we are here to get a furniture voucher and not waiting in line to get food or a shower.' We are really blessed that we do have our own place. We are barely keeping it together, but we do the best we can do."

Safiyyah and Ryan work diligently to make ends meet. Regular tasks like buying groceries, paying utilities and commuting to work become big family decisions. Each week Safiyyah and Ryan must plan around one another's work schedules so they can share a bus pass. Every dime counts.

"All I know is I'm grateful and happy. If the Furniture Bank was to go away a lot of people would go unaided," Safiyyah said. "We aren't the typical family on the street. We are working people, but we can't get by without places like the Furniture Bank. Having them provide furniture frees up income that we need to spend elsewhere."

