

Community Warehouse Puts Your Used Goods to Good Use

By Rena Satre Meloy

For most of us, furnishings hold a powerful yet nearly invisible role in our lives. When we wake up in the morning, we have a comfy bed to roll out of and a soft rug to catch our warm toes and cushion them from the chilly floor. We have our favorite mug awaiting a warm cup of coffee or tea in the kitchen, and our dining table and chairs are always loyal to our morning breakfast ritual.

It's hard to imagine what our homes would look like completely empty. How would you feel with nowhere to sit, with no place for your children to do their homework, with no pots or pans to cook a meal or a single lamp to switch on at night? "Home" means something a little different for everyone, but most would agree that it's one of the most comforting words there is.

The mission of Community Warehouse is a simple yet incredibly powerful one: accept household furnishings you no longer need to help create a home for someone else in your community. The organization is the only local, full-service nonprofit furniture bank in the region that collects donated household goods and furnishings and redistributes them to neighbors in need.

Through locations in Portland and Tualatin and partnerships with more than 180 social service agencies, public schools and faith communities, the Warehouse helps 50 families every week stabilize their lives by providing them with the basics that turn their housing into more comfortable, functional homes. A family can receive beds, a kitchen table and chairs, a dresser, sofa, living room furniture, lamps, items for cooking and linens — all in a single visit. These basic comforts allow people to devote their time and resources to meet other needs, such as employment, healthcare or food. Their quality of life is strongly improved and they are more likely to become self-sufficient members of their community.

We Need Your Help

Currently, Community Warehouse provides the comforts of home to more than 7,000 people each year. We rely solely on donations from our community to meet this need. If you have extra household goods or furnishings, please consider giving them to the Warehouse. We will put your used goods to good use! We just ask that your items are gently-used and in clean, working condition. Drop off items at our Warehouse locations in Northeast Portland or Tualatin, or request a pickup.

I began working at Community Warehouse more than four years ago, and not a day has passed when I haven't taken a moment to appreciate the seemingly "small" yet utterly essential items that allow me to function, to feel human, and to live with a sense of well-being and ease in my life. One of my good friends once said, *"You know, sometimes it's the small things that make you realize there are no small things."*

He has never been more right.



Community Warehouse and Estate stores are located at
3969 NE MLK Jr. Boulevard in Portland and at
8380 SW Nyberg Street in Tualatin.
Visit communitywarehouse.org
for more information.

MOST-NEEDED ITEMS

- Pots and pans
- Silverware, dishes
- Can openers
- Toasters
- Alarm clocks
- Clean mattresses (especially twin-sized)
- Kitchen tables and chairs
- Dressers
- Lamps
- Pillows
- Blankets/comforters

HELP IN OTHER WAYS

- **Donate, shop and support** at the Estate Stores, which sell higher-value items and antiques. Learn more at estatestore.org.
- **Volunteer** at Community Warehouse stores and Estate Stores. Contact Jessica Thompson at Jessica@communitywarehouse.org or call 503.891.7400.
- **Spread the word!** Tell your next-door neighbor, walking pal and co-worker about Community Warehouse's mission.

