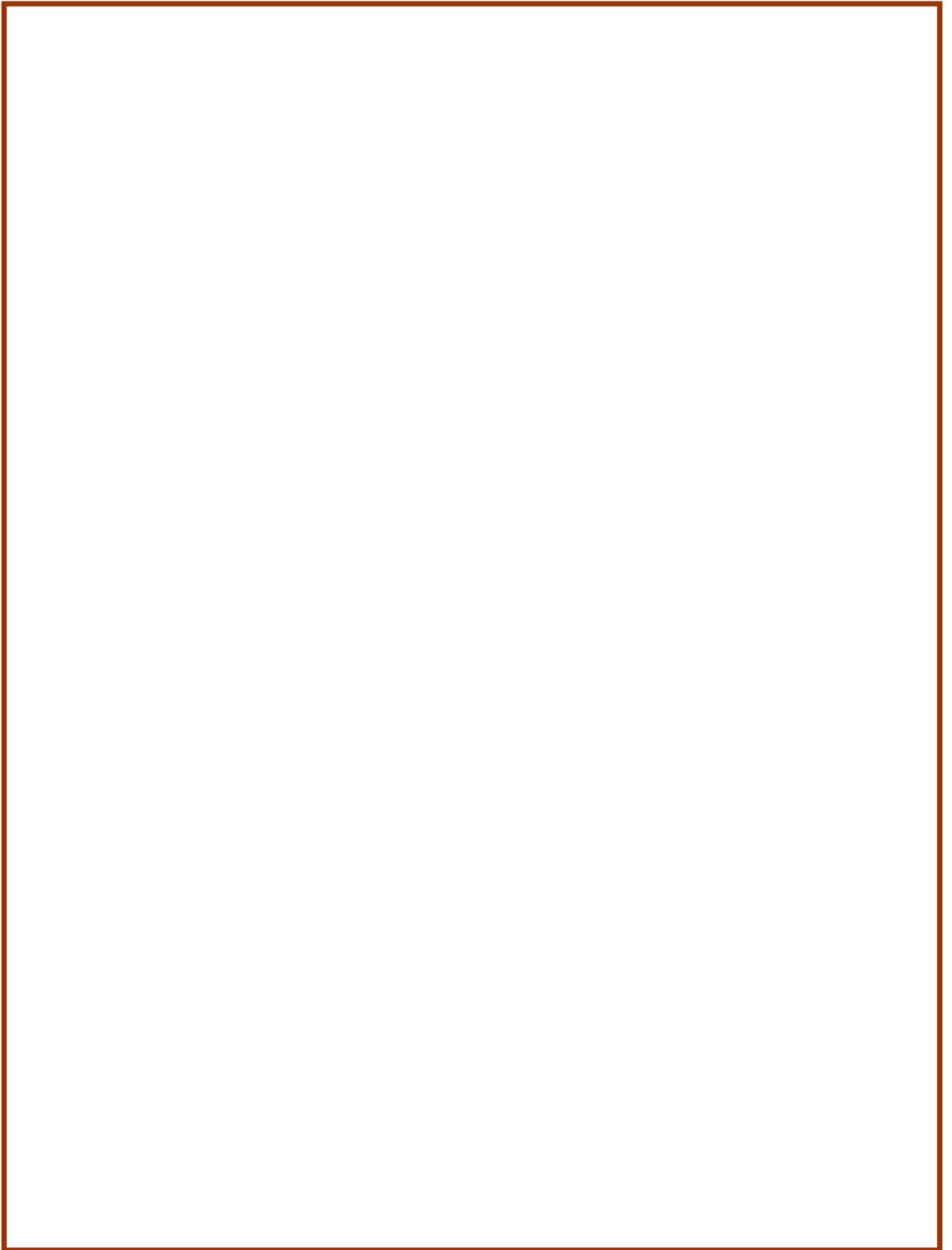


The FreeStore



Annual Report 2009



Mission Statement

We support children and families who have escaped abusive situations. We provide donated furniture and household goods to clients of domestic violence services and other agencies as these families begin new independent, productive lives in safe environments.



BBQ Pork Sandwich
— MEAL —
Includes:
Baked Beans, Chips & Soda
\$5.00 Suggested Donation
Proceeds to Benefit The FreeStore



2009 FreeStore Board



L to R: *Judy Bloom, Jeanie Smith, Bev Blaha, Mike Smith, Larry Anderson, Earl Lemke, Terry Swanson*

Board Chair

Theresa M. Swanson
1561 NW 103rd St
Clive, IA 50325
(Hswanson@dwx.com)

Vice-Chair

Jean D. Smith
4816 Pleasant St
Des Moines, IA
50312

Secretary

Beverly B. Blaha
8110 Valdez Circle
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Treasurer

Lawrence R. Anderson
3109 Meadow Lane
West Des Moines, IA
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Board Member

Earl W. Lemke
1427 57th Street
Des Moines, IA 50312
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Board Member

Judith K. Bloom
4820 Elm St.
West Des Moines, IA 50265
(freebom52@msn.com)

Board Member

Michael H Smith
2015 Nash Dr.
Des Moines, IA 50314

Message from the Board Chair

2009 was a banner year for the FreeStore. A highlight of the year was when Two Men and a Truck moved our 1000th client in July. We celebrated and honored supporters and donors with an open house at the warehouse. It's hard to remember that in our first year, 2001, we served seven clients from a rented garage space. It's been a long path from that first year to 2009's 258 requests. And we can't begin to thank all the supporters who have given us donations over the years.

2009 was also a very busy year for the FreeStore - in fact it was our busiest year ever. We filled 258 requests, which provided household items for 278 adults and 388 children. The good-used furniture value of these items was \$401,000. All this on a budget of about \$30,000

We realize that the service we provide is just one small step for women leaving domestic abuse centers but are proud that we've become an important part of helping women move from shelter to independent living. We are a member of several other Des Moines organizations that support local shelters and work locally to abolish domestic abuse.

With your help we will continue to support local Iowa shelters and also to offer our services - for a nominal fee - to other agencies in the Des Moines area that work to help needy families reestablish themselves as contributing members of society.

Thank you for all your support.



Terry Swanson

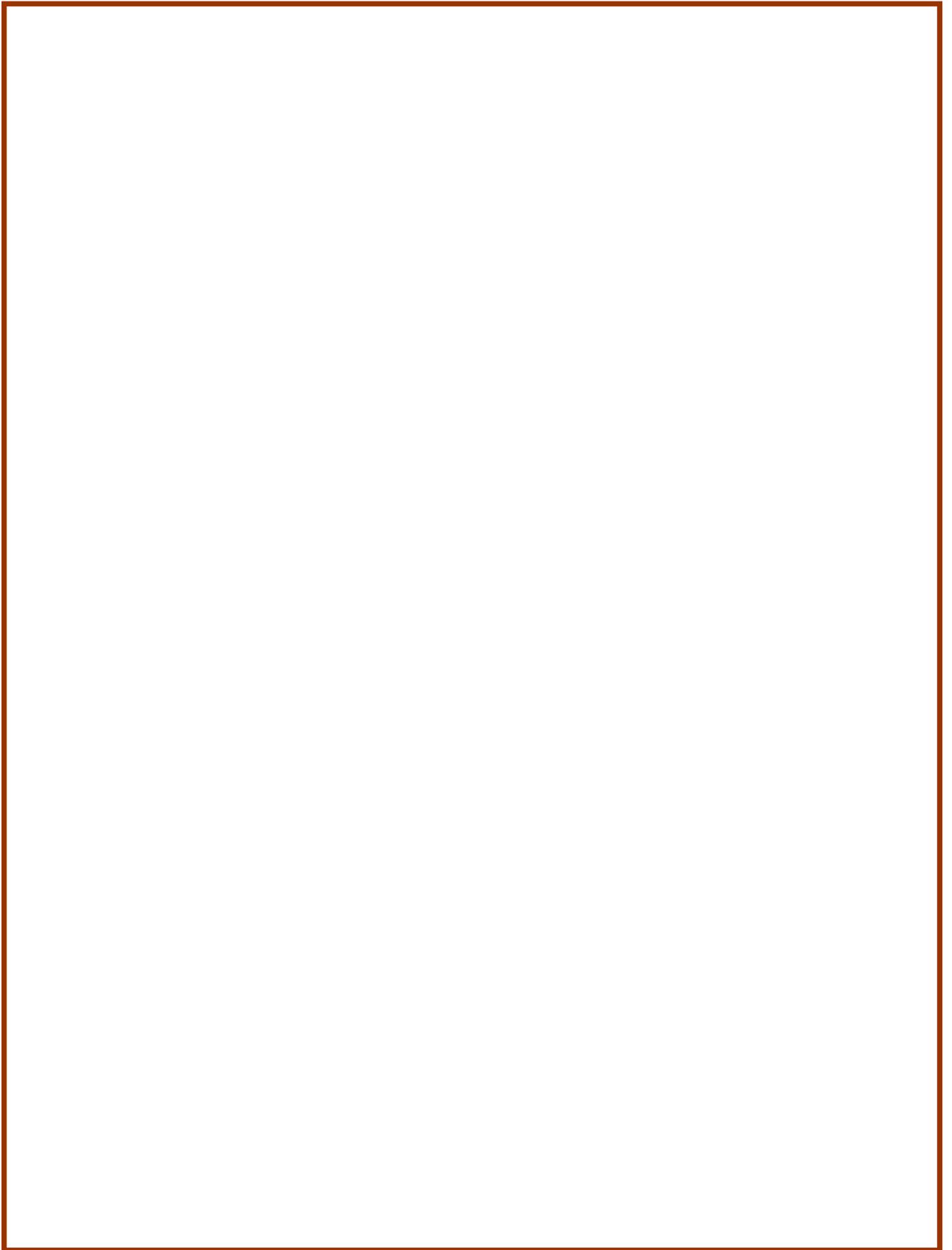
FreeStore Background

The FreeStore was started as an outreach ministry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in July of 2001. Due to the growth of this ministry and its operational readiness, the FreeStore was incorporated in March of 2005, and was designated as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization in September of 2005.

The FreeStore provides household items (furniture, bedding, tableware, etc.) to families who have escaped abusive situations. These families are usually comprised of a single mother with small children who sought safety at Children and Families of Iowa's Domestic Violence Services and from other central Iowa shelters. Many times the family owns little but the clothes they are wearing when they fled their abusive situation. Once the family is stabilized and has secured housing and employment, the FreeStore steps in to provide necessary household items at no charge as they leave the shelter and transition into the community.

Without the services the FreeStore provides, many women and their children either would have to remain at Children and Families of Iowa's Domestic Violence Services for a longer time; or they would move into apartments without the most basic household necessities such as beds, linen, or kitchen items. Helping these women and their children establish comfortable homes is often an important factor in securing their independence and is a deterrent from going back to an abusive situation. The FreeStore works to provide these women with good quality items because an essential ingredient in their service is to help restore dignity and a sense of self worth that has been taken from them by the abusive partner.

As our donations of goods increased we were able to offer our services to other social service agencies. For a small fee to the sponsoring agency, a client of the agency can come to the FreeStore. We have served young people from Iowa Homeless Youth and from several of the local treatment centers.



2009 FreeStore Activities

Clients Served

Over the past five years, the FreeStore has furnished household items to help establish a growing number of households.

Year	Households Furnished	Adults Served	Children Served
2009	258	278	388
2008	210	235	287
2007	224	NA	NA
2006	177	NA	NA
2005	84	NA	NA

Goods Delivered

In 2009 the FreeStore gave away 187 tons of furniture and household items valued at \$401,928. A total of 7,642 items were shipped. Some of these items are listed below.

Blankets	607	\$6,070	End Tables	160	\$6,400
Pillows	547	\$2,735	L.R. Chairs	144	\$18,000
Chairs (Kitchen/DR)	541	\$18,935	Tables (Kitchen/DR)	138	\$27,600
Comforters	410	\$10,250	TVs	121	\$18,150
Set of Sheets	387	\$3,870	Boxes of Kitchenware	114	\$18,240
Mattress Sets	315	\$48,747	Microwaves	75	\$3,375
Bed Frames	275	\$5,500	Night Stands	74	\$3,700
Lamps	271	\$8,130	Coffee Tables	69	\$7,590
Dressers	254	\$52,070	Recliners	61	\$7,625
Rugs	226	\$5,115	Book Cases	59	\$9,145
Pots and Pans	185	\$4,625	Vacuum Cleaners	47	\$1,175
Couch/loveseat	181	\$53,050	Desks	38	\$5,890
Sets of Dishes	180	\$4,500	Bunk Beds	23	\$3,680
Flatware	161	\$4,025			

Internal Activities

To support these increased services, the FreeStore saw growth in internal activities:

→ For several years we have been chronically short of dressers. Earl Lemke shepherded a plan for the FreeStore to begin building our own dressers. We used the Fill the Mayflower drive as a formal introduction for our **\$\$\$ for Dressers** project and asked for donations of \$45 to cover materials. To further reduce cost Earl received a large donation of dresser hardware from Hardware Distributors Limited of Minnesota. By year end we built 45 dressers with assistance from the Carpenters Union apprentice program and the Scottish Rite Park Carpenter's Shop. We will continue to search for other organizations to build dressers. Donations for material have not been a problem, but construction time for each dresser consumes over seven hours and this work is a real "labor of love."



→ As we've grown we've found that people starting anew need more than just household items; they need some basic things we all take for granted. These things include items that allow them to keep themselves and their households clean. To that end in November we launched Project Clean Start. Our goals for 2009 included securing funding for Project Clean Start to give each client one or more of the following:

- a bucket filled with cleaning supplies
- a laundry basket filled with laundry supplies.
- a vacuum cleaner.
- a small but new set of pots and pans.



→ Most of our clients have little money or support and over the years we noticed that sometimes they or their children seemed hungry. Early on we started keeping fruit drinks, candy, and breakfast bars that we could offer them. In June we received a small freezer and since then we have keep a supply of donated frozen casseroles that we offer to each family on their move-in day.

→ We updated our telephone service. For several years, our telephone service has been housed at St. Timothy's. We moved the service to the warehouse where we have several options so the caller can indicate if she wants to have items picked up, to drop off items, or to ask a question. We also added a cell phone to the GMC truck, which can be used for questions during pickups.

→ We received a grant from the Business Women’s Association to buy storage shelves. We installed elevated shelving that is heavy duty enough to hold mattresses and other large pieces of furniture. It can hold 45 mattresses and box springs.



→ We added 7 new FreeStore volunteers to our roster in 2009. They logged 5900 hours helping pickup, arrange, and deliver furniture.

Agency	Requests filled		Agency	Requests filled
CFI Domestic Violence Services	188		Veterans Affairs	2
Iowa Homeless Youth	20		Amanda the Panda	1
Salvation Army	9		Beacon of Life	1
L.U.N.A. Crisis Line	7		Black Ministerial Alliance	1
Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Center - Adel	5		Four Oaks	1
Eddie Davis Center	4		Holy Trinity Church	1
ACCESS	2		Lutheran Services	1
CFI Elevate Youth	2		Norwood Baptist Church	1
ELPIS Ministries Inc	2		Rural Iowa Crisis Center	1
Hands of Help	2		South Central Youth Shelter	1
Oakridge Neighborhood	2		St. Vincent de Paul	1
St. Timothy’s Church	2			
Total Requests			258	

NOTE: Bolded agencies are domestic violence shelters and we serve their referrals for free.

Special Awards and Donations

Fill the Mayflower Event

Select Van and Storage Co. sponsored a furniture drive to fill one of their over-the-road vans with items for the FreeStore. (And we did—we received over 15,000 lbs of goods!) Children and Families of Iowa provided support for the event with volunteers and staff from both the shelter and the Foundation. Trisha Barton Marketing Director for Valley West Mall provided the space for the event, and a wealth of opportunities with local media representatives.

Principal Financial Group

Principal Financial Group furnishes us with warehouse space at 700 and 702 E. 4th St. in the River Hills Business Park. We pay no rent and are only responsible for utilities.

DWX Internet Services

DWX is a local internet and web service company . They donate our web space and maintenance (www.thefreestore.org) as a community service.

LWBJ Financial

LWBJ Financial provides us with accounting services and help with inventory.

Grant Support

Principal Financial Group Foundation, Inc.:.....\$2500
Des Moines business Women’s Association:\$10,100
American Contract Bridge League\$250

Special Thanks

Amy Young	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Newton	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bray
Chad Holden	Marcia Otting	Roxanne Conlin
West Des Moines COG	Margaret Brennan	St. Timothy’s Epis. Church
Cyclone Corvette Club	Dr. & Mrs. Mike Harvey	St. Timothy’s Comm. Ministry
DACC	Mr. & Mrs. Miles Luchtenburg	Terry Brown
Daniel Cosgriff	Dr. & Mrs. Albert Mintzer	Chris Martin
Hanny Mason	Neal Smith Family Foundation	The Rev. Mary Cole-Duvall
Jennifer Blaha	Dr. Pat Reddin	Des Moines Bridge Center
Joan Anderson	Principal RIS Business Systems	Kay and Emily Brown
Mr. Dennis and the Rev. Elizabeth Popplewell	Tanya Anthofer	Mr. and Mrs. Dave Dean
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hovden	Mr. and Mrs. T. Carpenter	Mr. and Mrs. Don Burrows
Pat Montross	Mr. and Mrs. Lee Baker	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith
Daria Schmidt	Select Van and Storage	Two Men and a Truck

Another Way to Look at It

Dear FreeStore Friends,

Recently, my sister and I made a decision to move my mother, who is 87 years old, into a nursing home. One of the things that we dreaded having to do was cleaning out her apartment and having to decide what to do with all of her furniture and household items. Many of the things in her apartment were items that came from the original house that my sister and I grew up in. Consequently, we didn't relish the thought of parting with some of those things.



It wasn't until we discovered the FreeStore that we realized that we could give all of these items a "new life" with people that really are in need of them. The cause that you serve is very dear to the hearts of my sister and me and we were honored to be able to be of assistance to your clients who are in need. In fact, when the truck drove away from my Mom's apartment, I may have had a tear or two in my eyes. They weren't, however, tears of sadness. They were tears of joy, knowing that someone in need would have a smile on their face when they received some of my Mom's items.

My sister and I congratulate you on the wonderful work that you do and hope that you will be able to continue it in the future.

Bill Mogolov, Clive, Iowa

Debra Mogolov Damsky, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida



FreeStore Financial Statements

Financial Activities

For the years ended Dec. 31: 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Unrestricted net assets:				
Revenue and other support:				
Contributions:				
Noncash support	\$421,516	\$388,134	\$361,565	\$237,187
Cash support	\$41,605	\$35,839	\$40,071	\$19,971
Restricted	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0
Other income	\$1,085	\$626	\$202	\$21
Services & shirt sales	\$3,495	\$2,867	\$1,472	\$0
Release Temporarily Re- stricted Contributions	\$0	\$11,121	\$0	\$0
Total revenue/other support*	<u>\$467,701</u>	<u>\$438,587</u>	<u>\$405,810</u>	<u>\$257,179</u>
Expenses:				
Program services	\$416,079	\$342,860	\$324,707	\$202,316
Management and general	\$26,555	\$32,007	\$15,632	\$15,067
Fund-raising	\$6,428	\$4,686	\$0	\$0
Total expenses	<u>\$449,062</u>	<u>\$379,553</u>	<u>\$342,986</u>	<u>\$217,383</u>
Inc in unrestricted net assets	\$18,640	\$59,034	\$59,076	\$39,796
Changes in temporarily restricted net assets:				
Temporarily restricted contri- butions	\$224	\$4,102	\$11,121	\$0
Release Temporarily Re- stricted Contributions	\$0	(\$11,121)	\$0	\$0
Inc in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$224</u>	<u>(\$7,019)</u>	<u>\$11,121</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Increase in net assets	\$18,864	\$52,015	\$59,076	\$0
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>\$164,265</u>	<u>\$112,250</u>	<u>\$53,174</u>	<u>\$13,378</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$183,129</u>	<u>\$164,265</u>	<u>\$112,250</u>	<u>\$53,174</u>

* Includes \$14,868 as the value for donated use of warehouse facilities.

Balance Sheet
Years ending Dec. 31: 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006

Assets	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$40,054	\$41,255	\$33,596	\$17,946
Investments	\$41,525	\$25,524	\$11,121	\$0
Inventory	\$90,325	\$85,606	\$53,618	\$31,628
Total current assets	<u>\$171,904</u>	<u>\$152,385</u>	<u>\$98,335</u>	<u>\$49,574</u>
Transportation equip net of dep	<u>\$11,225</u>	<u>\$11,880</u>	<u>\$13,915</u>	<u>\$3,600</u>
Total assets	<u>\$183,129</u>	<u>\$164,265</u>	<u>\$112,250</u>	<u>\$53,174</u>
 Liabilities and net assets				
Current liabilities:				
Acc. Pay and accrued exp	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total current liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net assets:				
Unrestricted	\$178,803	\$160,163	\$101,129	\$53,174
Temporarily restricted	\$4,326	\$4,102	\$11,121	\$0
Permanently restricted	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$183,129</u>	<u>\$164,265</u>	<u>\$112,250</u>	<u>\$53,174</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$183,129</u>	<u>\$164,265</u>	<u>\$112,250</u>	<u>\$53,174</u>

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