



201 W 87th Street
Bloomington MN 55420
952-888-1105
www.bridging.org

Dear Bridging Donor,

Thank you for your furniture donation, it helped stock the Bridging warehouse with greatly needed items. In 2007, Bridging provided 5,339 families with basic furniture and household items. We project a 35% increase in the number of families needing Bridging services during 2008. This will result in over 6,000 families served and more than 20,000 individuals.

Bridging was founded in 1987 to “bridge” the gap between the “haves” and the “have nots” by providing the economically disadvantaged with quality furniture and household items free of charge. New or gently used items are donated by individuals and businesses.

Various circumstances bring people to Bridging, some are fleeing abuse, others have been financially devastated by medical bills, many are recently in the country and yet others are simply the working poor. Families come to Bridging by referral from over 200 agencies. Social workers from those agencies conduct home visits to record the particular needs of that family and to schedule an appointment at Bridging.

Families arrive at one of the Bridging warehouses to engage in a shopping experience that allows them to choose their furniture and household pieces. Depending on family size clients receive 15-25 furniture items including beds, sofas, dressers, tables and chairs. From household items they receive 6-10 boxes of items including bedding, pots and pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, cooking utensils, etc.

Regardless of circumstance, heartwarming stories and joyful tears fill our warehouse. Some people are so excited to come to their appointment that they cannot sleep the night before; one young girl commented to her mom when picking out silverware that they would not have to share spoons any more and yet another client exclaimed that we gave her back her dignity!

Fran Heitzman, Bridging’s founder, offers, “It’s the little kids I see every day in the waiting room, and we know last night they slept on their coat on the floor. In this country, that is not acceptable, it’s just not right. We have to do something about it, we have to. Otherwise we’re going to lose that little kid. He’s going to be on the street. He has to be told, ‘I care about you.’”

Money you donate goes to support families in need of basic furniture and household items. The need is continuous. Financial contributions pay for various undertakings including:

Furniture Delivery: Families need a low cost solution to move their furniture home. Beginning late 2007 Bridging started a furniture delivery program where Bridging charges only \$125 regardless of where they live or how many items they have.

Furniture Production: Bridging does not receive sufficient donations of dressers and kitchen chairs. To address the need, a volunteer run carpentry shop was started in 1987. To date over 10,000 dressers have been built and now 220 dressers are constructed each month. Due to an annual shortfall of over 15,000 chairs, Bridging began a similar chair building program in July 2007. Lumber is purchased at wholesale rates, knobs for the dressers are donated, and labor is volunteered resulting in a per item cost of \$35 per dresser and \$5.30 per chair. An incredible price for a solidly constructed piece of furniture!

Bridging does not depend on government subsidies for operations and the organization is not a United Way funded agency. We rely on the generosity of supporters like you. As a donor, you play a critical role in our life enhancing work – ***make a gift and help families build a home.***

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Osterbauer".

Ron Osterbauer
Executive Director

