Hearts to Homes Furnishings, Inc. is a New York-based 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

HEARTS to HOMES®

Expanding to Support More Young Adults

2019 Annual Report

From foster care to furnished home
HEARTS to HOMES CARES
OUR MISSION
Helping Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care

Hearts to Homes assists newly independent young adults, in New York City and Westchester County, who have just aged out of foster care. This assistance alleviates some of the stress during the initial transition by providing the essentials to furnish a new home.

The furniture and home goods Hearts to Homes provides help to create a more comfortable living environment, thereby positively impacting the negative statistics of instability, homelessness, incarceration and multi-generational foster care that affect young adults who age out of foster care.
Dear Hearts to Homes Supporter,

When you woke up this morning, did you throw the covers aside as you lifted your head from your pillow? Did you jump into a shower, toss some clothes in the hamper and grab a towel to dry off? Did you sit at the kitchen table to read your email, while the coffee maker prepared a cup of that oh-so-necessary early morning beverage? What if your bed was just a mattress on the floor, or maybe not even a mattress? What if it was just a pile of blankets? How difficult would it be to shower if there was no shower curtain, and you only had a single, threadbare towel to dry off with? What if your kitchen had no pots or pans, no dishes or cups, and not a single common appliance like a coffee maker or toaster? What if the only place you could sit comfortably in your entire apartment was on your mattress, and that was where you ate your take-out dinner every night, because there was no table to eat at and your living room had no furniture?

Hearts to Homes—and our generous donors—realize that many foster children in our area “age out” of care without the financial support to buy what many of us might consider to be necessities. You joined us to take action and fill an urgent need.

It is hard to convey the impact that you have made in the lives of young adults in our area. I invite you to read this Annual Report and see the amazing things you have done by being a donor!

See those smiles? You made them happen! Tonight, over 100 young adults will go to sleep in a furnished home that they can finally call their own.

We thank you for helping us make that happen!

Sincerely,
Mary Theresa McCombe
Executive Director
Receiving all those boxes was like Christmas! It’s a really awesome feeling for someone who rarely received gifts. Thank you!

— Hearts to Homes Recipient

700 Young Adults Will Age Out of Foster Care Each Year

Roughly 700 young adults age out of foster care into independent living in New York City and Westchester County each year. Generally, these young adults are 18 to 21 years of age. For a young adult, aging out of foster care, a first apartment is expensive and requires a great deal of effort to put together. Both can be roadblocks for a successful transition and a productive life. When this happens, Hearts to Homes steps in with furniture and other necessary furnishings.

In 2019, we furnished more apartments than in 2016, 2017 and 2018, combined! This is a tremendous accomplishment, but we struggle with the knowledge that we are reaching only 10% of youth who are aging out of foster care. There is a tremendous need for the kind of stabilizing support that Hearts to Homes provides. Only 8% of our recipients can afford market rate housing. 12% of our recipients live in supportive housing, and 80% live in public housing throughout NYC and Westchester County.

Hearts to Homes Fills a Critical Need

Young adults who age out of foster care are those who have never been successfully reunited with their family or adopted. As a result, they usually do not have the typical family connections that many young adults rely on for guidance or help during their transition to independence. Before Hearts to Homes, these young adults frequently lived in nearly empty apartments. Some had a mattress on the floor and not much else. When our recipients receive the essential furnishings that Hearts to Homes provides, their feelings of anxiety are lessened and are replaced with feelings of pride in their new home. Your support has helped:

♥ A part-time college student, who also works part-time, as he navigates all aspects of his new independence. Your gifts provided many items, including a desk and chair, so that he had a place where he could focus on his studies.

♥ A young lady who recognized that hanging out in front of her building could be unsafe. Your gifts provided living room furniture, so she could invite friends over instead.

Furnished Apartments Since 2016 in NYC and Westchster*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Homes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>70</td>
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* Calendar Year

In 2019, Hearts to Homes furnished more homes than 2016, 2017, 2018 combined.
Hearts to Homes Complements Important Partner Programs

Many organizations provide programs to improve the odds of success in a young adult aging out of foster care. Job training, mentoring and financial literacy education are examples of additional programming assistance that help to increase these odds. These programs are important and necessary, but it is hard to be successful at a job, even with the guidance of these programs, when you lack some of the necessities that are needed for holding a job. Hearts to Homes is a unique complement to these programs. Your support has helped:

♥ An anxious young man who had an upcoming job interview. Your gifts provided laundry detergent, an iron, an ironing board, a shower curtain and two sets of towels so that he had a neat, clean appearance and a boost to his confidence. He got the job.

Our Annual Census Reports a 98% Recipient Success

Hearts to Homes conducts an annual census, with the support of our agency partners. This census determines whether an individual, who has received Hearts to Homes assistance, is still in a stable housing situation. We are proud that 98% of our Hearts to Homes recipients are reported to still be in their housing. This is a significant improvement over the expected outcomes for these young adults. Your support has provided:

♥ Living room furniture, bedroom furniture and kitchen essentials to a young woman who had just graduated from college. She is now a social worker and has referred several young adults to Hearts to Homes. They will obtain the same support that she once received.

We Impact the Lives of Young Adults and Their Children

Nearly one-third of all referrals to Hearts to Homes are young mothers. Over 40 children have benefited from the assistance we have provided to their parents. Your support has provided:

♥ Bedroom and living room furnishings and kitchen and personal care necessities to a young mother who was sleeping on a pile of blankets on the floor of an empty apartment with her toddler by her side.

♥ Pots and pans, dishes and cutlery to a young mother who was feeding her family fast food. She is now able to cook more wholesome food for her children.

Our plans for fiscal 2020 include strategic partnerships with organizations that will help us to fill the urgent needs of our parenting recipients. With these partnerships, we will be able to respond to provide diapers, wipes, baby furniture and baby clothing when they are needed.

“\nIf I didn’t have these things, I don’t know what my kids would eat out of, drink out of, what I would cook out of. Now I have everything!\n
— Hearts to Homes Recipient\n
"
Hearts to Homes Continues to Seek Expansion

Hearts to Homes relies on referrals from our partners—some of the finest child welfare agencies in New York City and Westchester County—in order to assist young adults who are aging out of their programs.

The Board of Directors continues to seek strategic expansions to foster care agencies that will allow us to support more young adults aging out of care in our area. In 2019, Hearts to Homes expanded to six new foster care agencies. Affordable housing shortages, especially in Westchester County, continue to impact our recipients. As a result, we have worked closely with allies in Westchester County’s Department of Social Services to ensure that our expansions allow us to reach the maximum number of county youth.

In NYC, we continue our expansions to support youth from more foster care agencies and are working toward strategic relationships with other organizations whose missions align with ours and whose programs will provide additional forms of support for our recipients.

“Through the generosity of Hearts to Homes, our kids at JCCA receive the furnishings and decorations that make a house a home, helping create a space of their own that reflects the stability and support we want for them for years to come.”

— Ronald E. Richter, CEO and Executive Director, JCCA

Hearts to Homes has 10 Partner Agencies

**Joined us in 2019**

- The Children’s Village
- MercyFirst
- ARCLIGHT HOUSING
- Forestdale
- JCCA

**Joined us in 2018**

- Rising Ground
- The New York Foundling
- GRAHAM

**Joined us in 2017**

- Cardinal McCloskey
- Catholic Guardian Services
**Hearts to Homes does not, by policy or practice, discriminate against a person or group on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, gender identity and expression, marital or military status in any group or class protected by applicable federal, state or local law.**

**A copy of Hearts to Homes’ latest annual financial report may be obtained from Hearts to Homes or from the State of New York Attorney General’s Charities Bureau website (www.charitiesnys.com). Should you wish to contact us for this information, please address your request to Hearts to Homes, 51 Lindbergh Place, Yonkers, NY 10707.**
I was very touched and moved by the impact Hearts to Homes has on young people’s lives as they step out into the world on their own. Providing these young adults with the basic necessities that allow them to call a place home has the potential to impact their lives forever.

— Hearts to Homes Donor

How You Can Help Change a Life

DONATE

❤ Your donations by check, credit card or securities, go directly to purchase furnishings for Hearts to Homes’ recipients.
❤ Consider monthly donations.
❤ Double the impact of your donation with a Corporate Match.

SHOP

❤ Shop one of our “Wish List” registries.
❤ Host a virtual housewarming party to help a young adult.
❤ Shop using AmazonSmile, selecting “Hearts to Homes Furnishings, Inc.” as your charity of choice.

EVENTS

❤ Attend one of our fundraising events, and do good, while having fun! Sign-up for our newsletter so we can let you know when we are having an event. www.heartstohomes.org
❤ Sponsor an event, or donate a raffle or auction prize to an event, and your support will be featured at the event, on our website, and on all social media.

SOCIAL MEDIA

❤ Help us spread the word! Consider sharing our mission, posts and our current campaigns, with your friends, family and colleagues on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

VOLUNTEER

❤ Social media whiz? Admin extraordinaire? Love event planning? Donate your time and skills to Hearts to Homes. We are a 100% volunteer organization. Email us if you would like to help! MTMcCombe@heartstohomes.org
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Sompo International
Matching Gift Program

Hearts to Homes acknowledges the support provided by the following philanthropy technology platforms:
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