

## **Making a House a Home** An Opportunity for Your Employees

If you're looking to get your employees involved in a meaningful team-building effort, we have a great opportunity for you.

Through our Making a House a Home program, we match up volunteers with our newly housed (and recently homeless) clients who need everything from sheets and pillows to wastebaskets and toasters. Our volunteers collect those gently used items and deliver them to those in need.

For groups of employees, this is a great way to work together – either during or outside of work hours – and do something that truly makes a difference.

There are two ways your employees can work with us. One is to be part of our group move-ins, which happen twice a month on Saturday mornings. Our volunteers meet at a storage facility in South Windsor, load up a U-Haul with donated furniture and make deliveries to four or five clients.

The second way to help is to have your employees “adopt” a client or two. Here's how that works:

- Journey Home gives your group the names and information of the adopted client. Your group calls the client to find out what they need. Some clients may need a bed and other furniture while some may just need sheets, towels and smaller items. Much of what they need is just sitting in the basements of our neighbors and friends!
- Your group begins looking for items on the list. They can talk to friends and neighbors, work with a community or church group or post for items online. They can scour tag sales, talk to realtors to find people who are moving, or post on a community Facebook page.
- The volunteers then start collecting the items from people and keep them in their garages or at a central location until the delivery time.
- The group will select the move day, clear the day with the client and arrange to rent or borrow a truck, if necessary. Then, they deliver the items. It's that simple.

Your employee group could make this an ongoing project or a one-time event. They could also take further steps – collecting for a gift card to give the client, buying paper goods or helping to hang curtain rods. They can do as little or as much as they want. Personalizing to the client's tastes and interests is always a wonderful way of connecting with the client.

Encourage them to have fun with this – taking it on as a scavenger hunt or a “design on a dime” effort. They'll be amazed at how many people want to help, how rewarding it is and what a difference they can make in the lives and comfort of other people. To get started give us a call at 860.808.0336.