

## Introduction to Furniture Assist, Inc.: Helping Needy to Create a Home

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Furniture Assist (FA) was founded in 2004 by Dawson Yeomans as an outreach program of several Union County-based religious organizations, which continue to provide financial support and volunteers. In January 2006, Furniture Assist was incorporated. In October 2006 we received our IRS determination letter recognizing our organization's tax-exempt status. FA accepts donations of new and gently-used furniture, appliances and household goods from individuals, groups, organizations, corporations and public and private

sources. Our mission is simple: "From those who have, to those who need."

FA was established to meet three community needs: The first benefit is that FA provides furniture, appliances and other household goods, free of charge, directly to individuals with a recognized need. Recognized needs may include, but are not limited to, situations such as a previously homeless individual or family trying to set up a new living arrangement, or needing additional goods for their home; a battered spouse establishing a new home; a medical emergency; or a flood, fire, hurricane, tornado, earthquake or other disaster. In these times of tremendous financial upheaval and terrifying unemployment rates, our services are needed more than ever to help clients who are trying to help themselves. A second benefit is that the organization works with qualified religious organizations and other non-profit organizations, making donations of furniture, appliances or other household items available for use by the organizations, or for further distribution to individuals supported by the organizations. A third benefit of FA is "green" in nature. Many of the donated items would otherwise be thrown out, ultimately ending up in landfills or dumps. Our organization gives these items a new home where they are needed and used, thus keeping them out of the landfills.

FA is a 100-percent volunteer organization, which means that we need, and have, an active board of trustees. Our board is very hands-on, participating in all aspects of the organization, from finances to sorting donated items and unloading trucks.

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*This article is number one in a series of three articles. Please see forthcoming articles and visit our website, [furnitureassist.com](http://furnitureassist.com), for information on donating or volunteering.*