

A WATCHUNG COMMUNICATIONS, INC. PUBLICATION

Furniture Assist Is Helping During Aftermath of Sandy

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Board of Trustees, Furniture Assist, Inc.

Furniture Assist is well known to Westfield and surrounding communities. We are a 501(c)3 organization that accepts donations of new and gently-used furniture, appliances and household goods from individuals, groups, organizations, corporations and public and private sources. We also accept clothes, toys and books. We are grateful for the steady stream of donations that we receive from generous donors.

The need for our assistance is even more urgent in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. My colleague who works with FEMA has let us know that there is a serious, immediate need for clothes, and we wish to address that need. Furniture Assist is reaching out in an attempt to work within the Federal Response Framework, which includes the Red Cross and the Salvation Army as part of the Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disasters (VOAD).

These agencies work closely with the FEMA division for Individual Assistance. They help shelter, feed and assist those impacted by disasters. Fortunately, many people and

organizations want to help. But the receiving organizations have limited time to sort or to take care of the things they do not need for disasters, where the need is so urgent and the timeline is so tight.

We are attempting to provide these agencies with exactly what they need for people impacted by Hurricane Sandy. We are actively attempting to make connections with the local Red Cross and Salvation Army, thus working within the existing disaster response system, to get our goods distributed efficiently to those in need. This way, we help by not duplicating services, but by complementing what is available and already established.

Please continue to keep us in mind for your donations. Please continue to bring us clothes, which are needed immediately, and other goods that our regular clients, many of whom are also affected by the hurricane, still need and soon will be needed to help Hurricane Sandy survivors. We are open every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for drop off. Please see our website, www.furnitureassist.com, for directions to our facility. Thank you again for your continued generosity.