

The idea for New Beginnings began with meeting a guest of *The Bridge* and a Matthew's Brown Bag recipient. (a brown bag lunch is offered by our church to those in need). Both were getting their first apartments in quite some time and needed help furnishing their new places. It seemed like something could be done to help those in this situation make their places more livable. This seemed like something we could and should do. So we decided to pray for confirmation. The next day there was a knock on the door, there stood our confirmation in the form of a fellow seeking a Matthew's Brown Bag. Having introduced himself as a new neighbor, who had just moved into an apartment down the street, he said all he had was an air mattress and a lawn chair and asked if we knew where he could get some furniture.

A call went out for donations of furniture and household items and the church responded with incredible generosity, as did some of the Lafayette Square neighbors.

One couple from the church offered the use of their pick-up truck to gather donations and make deliveries. Another couple had an empty apartment waiting for rehab that was offered in response to our need for temporary storage.

We joined forces with The Bridge's Furniture Ministry which was in need of wheels and muscle. The bulk of our referrals at that time came from the Social Worker at The Bridge.

Our referrals now come from local agencies:. At the present time the biggest part of our referrals come from the Veterans Affairs Hope Recovery Program & BJC Behavioral Health. We have also accepted referrals from HUDVASH, another Veterans program, St. Patrick's Center's (SSVF) Veterans program and shelter program, and the Veterans of the Joseph Center in E. St. Louis, Crisis Nursery, and Parents as Teachers

It's Easy to Support N.B.
...bet you could do at least two of the following!

PRAY for our "new tenants" and volunteers. Prayer must be at the heart of N.B.

DONATE your previously loved furniture, small appliances and household goods. All we ask is that they be clean and in good repair.

VOLUNTEER your time and talent. We have opportunities for a variety of talent. Collecting and organizing linens and household items, muscle for light to heavy lifting (we don't do large appliances), drivers, data entry, record keeping and bookkeeping.

Make a Cash Donation - our overhead is very low. But we need cash to cover transportation costs and from time to time to purchase crucial items that are in short supply. *Make checks payable to LPUMC with "New Beginnings" noted on the memo line.*

For More information:
Phone: 314/771-9214
Like us on Facebook



N.B. is an outreach of
Lafayette Park UMC
 2300 Lafayette Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63104

6/20

New Beginnings



A furniture ministry helping the homeless transition to permanent housing.

Since May of 2012

From concrete to cot . . .

All of the new tenants referred to us have spent some time on the streets (some a matter of months others a matter of years) seeking shelter where it might be found. They usually carry all their earthly belongings in a backpack and a plastic trash bag or two.

The social workers work wonders helping our friends find jobs and /or get the help they need to get into their first apartments.

. . . to cottage. . .

Typically, when we enter a new tenant's apartment it is wall to wall floor, a few blankets in the corner and a trash bag and backpack nearby.



From wall to wall floor. . .

. . . a comfortable place to call home!

We start with the basics— a mattress and box springs to get them up off the floor. Then we fill in with other furniture as our supply allows. It's really kind of a "pot luck" system. We deliver what we have on hand at any particular time. We try to meet as much of the need as possible, but often end up with waiting lists for a few of the more hard to find items. However, it's really amazing how the basics always seem to appear when needed.

. . . New Beginnings is not just about



"God is so good!! He always comes through for me when I need it most! Thank God and thank you and your church!"

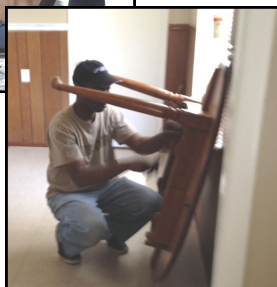
Donors & Volunteers - the heart of N.B.

Without the generosity of our church family, friends and acquaintances, New Beginnings could not exist. They somehow manage to keep up with our constant and current furniture needs. Much of our muscle comes from former "new tenants" who offer their services free of charge as a way of "paying forward". Like the rest of us they often find the real joy in helping others.



Giving and giving back. . .

. . . donors and volunteers in action.



Four years

The end of May, 2019 marks the end of our seventh year of ministry. Because of the generosity of our donors and volunteers we have furnished approximately 700 residences and touched the lives of more than 1,500 individuals. The majority of our referrals come from various Veterans programs. It would be safe to say that over 90% of those we have served are veterans and veteran's families.

N.B. can be a very rewarding experience. Blessings abound.

"Among my many blessings as a NB volunteer was a moment made memorable by a pint sized, little elf. She weighed about as much as a humming bird and is as beautiful & delicate as a butterfly.



"OL", 18 months later

We were delivering some furniture to a new tenant. Standing there talking with her, I glanced down to see this bright eyed, tiny little girl with an irresistible smile approaching me, her arms outstretched for me to pick her up.

I reached down and lifted her up. She immediately wrapped her little arms around my neck and put her head on my shoulder. I was defenseless. For a few intense seconds I experienced pure, innocent, unconditional love. It was an intense & tender moment.

Someone said that "Love melts, it doesn't melt you -- it melts everything that isn't you." That is exactly what happened to me. All my defenses, any hint of pretense, judgment, everything - vanished. It was a graced moment full of warmth and tender mercy! Perhaps even a touch, a glimpse of the Divine, an experience of the love our Father has for all of us.

So I am reminded that New Beginnings really is not just about furniture, it's about God's people. We often get caught up in the task at hand and miss the beauty of those people God brings into our lives. What we deliver is more than furniture. We share the care and concern of our church community and friends. We share the love of our caring, compassionate God.

I think God delights in finding ways to surprise us with expressions of His love just like He did through this pint sized little 'elf'.

(C L, Volunteer)