OUR STORY

When does a house become home?
When it’s a place that fosters joy, a place for experiencing safety, warmth, and comfort. A place of belonging, and new beginnings.

At Humble Design, our hearts help us do the heavy lifting by offering a fresh start and designing a life-changing space.

Our mission is to change lives and communities by transforming houses into homes for those emerging from homelessness.

With warehouses filled with donated furniture and household goods, we turn empty houses into clean, dignified, and welcoming homes for the recently homeless so that families can begin again.

Our services help provide our clients with sanctuary, stability, and hope – a critical element in ending the cycle of homelessness. It would take an average Humble client 18 years to save enough money to furnish a home in the way we do in just a few hours.

What started as a small endeavor has now blossomed into a national nonprofit and a worldwide movement of empathy for those who feel unseen. Humble Design is revolutionizing the way we approach homelessness by providing not just shelter, but also hope, dignity, and a fresh start. The impact is astounding—families who have been touched by Humble Design now boast an incredible 99% success rate of remaining in their homes, breaking the cycle of homelessness.

We assist in the transformation of lives in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, San Diego, and Seattle.

Since 2009, our staff and volunteers have turned moving in, into moving forward.
HUMBLE NATIONWIDE TOTAL STATISTICS

In 2009, Humble Design was born. Since its inception in Detroit, we have grown to five cities and have helped thousands of individuals restart their lives after exiting homelessness.

2,910+ HOMES FURNISHED SINCE 2009*

We furnish each home with the same care, empathy, and dignity we would offer our friends and family.

8,564+ INDIVIDUALS SERVED SINCE 2009*

Entering housing is an important step in the journey out of homelessness, but not enough to solve the problem. Humble Design ends the revolving door of homelessness by creating homes where families can find peace, strength, and hope. We transform a space into a home that fosters comfort, stability, and pride — allowing the families to focus on their personal and financial stability, including education, home life, employment, and building a better future.

*data as of June 2023
CLEVELAND HUMBLE DESIGN

Humble Design Cleveland’s programming and services help individuals escape poverty and become self-sufficient by eliminating a portion of the high cost of moving into and living in a new home. Cleveland’s ten-year housing plan notes that Cleveland’s eviction filing rate is substantially higher than the statewide rate. Humble Design Cleveland’s experience assisting those emerging from homelessness helps us to understand that among those being evicted are individuals for whom seemingly small costs snowballed into severe financial instability.

Since inception, we have grown the mission to two homes per week to serve more people than ever. Our total outcomes since we opened in 2020 are 163 homes, 503 individuals, 303 children, 25 veterans, and 4 large-scale community projects. Our volunteers have logged over 4,500 hours.

In 2022,

98 Homes Furnished

277 Individuals Served

166 children in beds

6 Veterans

3 community projects

*Outcomes as of 12.31.22
HUMBLE CLEVELAND PARTNERS

Cleveland is prioritizing decreasing the homeless population by 25% by 2027. Nationally, Cleveland is the third neediest city in the United States, identified through factors such as poverty rates, unemployment, homelessness, food insecurity, health insurance, and adequate housing facilities. Despite these dire statistics, we believe Humble Design Cleveland has a return to homelessness rate of less than 5% at the end of one year of the client being housed. This shows that Humble Design Cleveland’s innovative approach to ending cycles of homelessness in our community is working.

After completion of the 2022 audit, we are proud to announce that .86 cents of every dollar raised go to the program at Humble Design.

We are an environmental partner with 1% For The Planet, boast a 99%, four-star rating on Charity Navigator, and have earned a Platinum Level badge on GuideStar. Our donors can give with confidence, knowing we will always steward their gifts with care.

2022

In Kind Goods $420,763
In Kind Truck $14,921
In Kind Rent $68,000

*Other: Furniture Pickups, Retail, and Agency Sponsor
Cleveland Humble Design

In Gratitude for Our 2022 Supporters

Platinum $10,000+
- Progressive
- 100 Women Who Care Western Reserve
- Greg and Susan Griffith

Gold $5,000+
- Patricia Fellure
- Dottie & Eric Lofquist
- Jackie & Fred Rothstein
- Jon Thompson
- Jill Zupon

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- Christine and Paul Berne
- Cindy Bosetin
- Cook Smith Design - bldc design
- Adam & Sheri Fried
- N. Sue and Robert Hanson
- Sarah Held
- Daphne Held
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- Sharon & Edward Pavlovich

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- Lauren Barger
- Nancy Blanchard
- Nancy Ellen Clem
- Angela Forkapa
- Janet Hess
- Pamela Hoover
- ICI Metals
- InterDesign
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- Norann Charitable Trust
- McKinsey Saig
- Diane Stack
- Rob & Treger Strasberg
- Morgan Thorne
- University School
- Brenda and John Wahl

Pearl $100+
- The American Legion Auxiliary
- Barbara Anderson
- Anonymous
- Jen Areschield
- Stacey Asimou
- Maureen E Bachman
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- Beth & John Fleming
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- Elaine Gimmel
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- Craig & Gwynne Gretter
- Norma Haas
- Mari Hageman
- Darren & Johanna Hamm
- Marcie Harrison
- Ruth Hartl
- Daria Henri
- Carrie Heppner
- Erica Hesidey
- Bonnie Hinch
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- Jewish Community Foundation
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- Jeanine Wilson
- Marilyn Wise
- Laureen Wisniewski
- Kristine Witt
- Elizabeth Wright
- Alexa Yurovitsky
- Cara & John Zoltowicz
- Michael Zubal

Only gifts over $100 are reflected on this list. We are extremely grateful for the 168 additional donors.
HUMBLE CLEVELAND 2022

- 3 community projects
- 3,200+ volunteers hours logged
- 98 houses designed
- 277 individuals served
- 1,762,500+ pounds of donated furniture reused with purpose
- 18 years for most of our families to fully-furnish their homes - given their current income.
- 169 children in their own Humble beds