

The logo features the word "Chairity" in a dark blue, serif font. The letter "i" in "Chair" has a teal dot above it. The word "ity" in "Chairity" has an orange dot below the "y". The text "2020 Annual Report" is centered below "Chair" in a white, sans-serif font.

Chairity
2020
Annual
Report

A Letter From the Executive Director

This past year has been filled with what can be described as insurmountable challenges, yet I have learned that challenges don't define us, but rather refine us. Each of us has been forced to navigate the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. The world has seemingly come to a halt over the past few months, but the need to reach out and provide services to our most vulnerable is more pronounced than ever.

I am writing today to provide updates about Chair-ity, Inc., the nonprofit I established in 2014 to assist young adults who age out of foster care and begin independent living. I took action at the age of 16 to fill a void in Ohio's foster care system. I was in high school and college while doing this outreach. Now I am working full-time to address the needs of this at-risk population.

To date, Chair-ity has provided furniture and household goods at no cost to 118 emancipated youth and their 64 infants/toddlers. Our efforts have been concentrated primarily in Summit County, but we are now expanding our service delivery footprint to include Cuyahoga County. In addition, we are beginning to reach out to youth in Ashtabula, Lake, Medina and Stark Counties.

I have worked to build partnerships with numerous area nonprofits, businesses, foundations and the private sector to support Chair-ity's operations and outreach. Chair-ity has maintained a modest budget since its inception, but we are now aggressively seeking philanthropic support as the organization grows from a student-led effort to a professionally managed and expanding nonprofit organization. I would like to personally thank our many benefactors and community partners who have provided support to sustain and expand our service delivery.

I continue to be humbled and inspired by the young adults I meet and serve. Each has a meaningful story to tell. Some have children of their own. Most of these youth begin their independent living without the support system of parents, guardians or relatives. For those exiting foster care, the safety net is minimal or nonexistent.

I invite you to join with me to help create a safety net for these young adults and consider giving of your time, talent and resources. What is needed? Financial support to provide services and purchase mattresses, box springs and cribs. Furniture donations are also needed to furnish apartments for these youth. Together, we can make a difference, create better life outcomes and encourage systemic change.

Thank you,
Maria Paparella
Executive Director

What is Aging Out of Foster Care?

When teenagers in foster care turn 18, the State of Ohio, and nearly every other state, no longer provides financial support to foster families. Many of these families choose to emancipate their foster youth and send them on their way to begin their independent adult life.

What is Chair-ity?

- Chair-ity is a 501(c)(3) that collects donated furniture and household goods for redistribution to youth who age out of the foster care system.
- Chair-ity works with county and Bridges social workers and other community partners to provide services to “graduated” youth as they begin living on their own without the support of family, friends or foster care.
- Chair-ity contacts the youth to discuss their furniture needs and delivery logistics, and coordinates with other community nonprofits to ensure that all housing needs are addressed. Chair-ity provides at no cost used furniture and household goods along with new bed sets (mattresses, box springs and bed frames).
- Chair-ity also provides cribs and new beds to children of the youth who are aging out of foster care.

More than **23,000 kids**
age out of U.S. foster care every year.



70%

of foster kids would like to go to college.

Only

3%


of kids who age out will earn a college degree

and

1 in 4

won't graduate from high school or get a GED.

60%



of boys who age out or are legally emancipated have been convicted of a crime.

7 in 10

girls who age out will become pregnant before age 21.



1 in 2



kids who age out will develop a substance dependence.

32%

of children who reached 18 in foster care were waiting in the system for more than

3 years

Emancipated Youth Statistics

**You can change their future.
Adopt teens from foster care.**



Children's
Home Society
of Minnesota



Lutheran
Social Service
of Minnesota

*Stats from National Foster Youth Institute

chlss.org/fostercareadoption

Chair-ity by the Numbers

118

Apartments outfitted by Chair-ity with furniture and household goods since inception.

1232

Total number of furniture items delivered through 2020

27

Emancipated youth served in 2020

12

Children of youth served in 2020

322

Furniture items given to emancipated youth in 2020

6

Number of counties Chair-ity serves

1

Number of organizations in Northeast Ohio working directly with county and Bridges social workers to help youth who age out of foster care with furniture and household goods at no cost

27 Deliveries Made in 2020

Recipient	Beds/crib	Night Stand	Sofa/Love seat	Recliner/ Chair	Dinette	Dresser	Coffee/End table	TV Stand	Lamps	Total
Catherine	2	1	1			1	1		2	8
Janessa						1	2	2	1	6
Thomas		1				1	2	2		6
Nevaeh		1				1		1	1	4
Tomalea	1	1	2				1		2	8
DayJana	1	1	2					1	1	6
Anthony	1				1	1	1			6
De'Jan	1	1	2				1	2	1	10
Callie	2	1	1	1	1			2	1	10
Milyssah	1	1	1			1		2	1	7
Jasmine		1	1					1	1	6
Kiarah	1	1					1	2		5
Fawziyyah		1	1			1	1		1	6
Fatima	1	1	2			1	1	2	1	11
Matthew	2	1	2	1			1		1	9
Hannah	1	2	2			1	2	2	1	12
Anthony	1	1			1		1			5
Andre						1	1		1	3
Olivia	1	1	2			1	1	1	1	10
Demi'Trianna					1	1		1	2	5
Brooklyn	1	1	2				1	3	1	11
Timisheana	1	1	1			1	1	2	1	10
Aiden		2	2	1	1	2		2	1	13
Ashton	1	1	1	1	1	1		2		10
Caitlyn	1	1	2	1	1	1		2	1	12
Kierr						1		1	1	3
Cheyenne	1	1	2				1	2	1	10
Total	21	24	29	8	17	24	37	17	35	212
Extended Total *	63	24	29	8	85	24	37	17	35	322

Six Year Total

2015 to 2020 Total	115	80	125	35	60	102	85	20	140	762
Extended Total *	345	80	125	35	300	102	85	20	140	1232

*Extended Total = number of items delivered in that set. Bed = 3 (mattress, boxspring and frame). Dinette = 5 (4 chairs and a table).

Partnerships

- A Place 4 Me
- Akron Community Foundation
- Ashtabula County Children Services
- Beech Brook
- Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff
- Brenna, Manna and Diamond LLC
- Charles & Mabel Ritchie Memorial Foundation
- Chez-Del Home Furnishings and Interior Design
- Coleman Professional Services
- Community of Hope
- Cumberland Metals
- Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services
- Fill This House
- Fostering Independence
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore -- Summit County
- Harmony House
- Howland Memorial Foundation
- Huntington Akron Foundation
- Lake County Children's Services
- Lauren & Lucian Moffitt Foundation
- Lehner Family Foundation
- Lloyd & Louise Smith Foundation
- Medina County Job and Family Services
- One Step at a Time
- Pathway Caring for Children
- RW Corwin & Company, Inc.
- Signet Capital Advisors
- Summit County Children's Services
- Stark County Children Services
- Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Foundation
- WITAN
- YWCA - Greater Cleveland

Chair-ity, Inc. Board of Directors

Maria Paparella

Executive Director, Chair-ity, Inc.

P: 330-814-1056

E: mpaparella@chair-ity.org

Cheyenne Boyd

Emancipation Resource Specialist, Summit County Children's Services

Gregg A. Eisenberg

Managing Partner, Benesh, Friedlander, Coplan, & Aronoff

Joseph E. Reece

CEO, Helena Capital Advisors LP

For more information please visit: www.chair-ity.org