




## Vancouver Furniture Company Partners with HomeStart to Raise Funds

During their “Sectional and the City” event which runs from now until April 18th, **Sofa So Good** will be donating \$50.00 to HomeStart Foundation for each sectional purchased. It costs about \$275 to furnish a home.



**Sectional** AND THE City  
All Sectionals On Sale Now!

For every sectional sold Sofa So Good will DONATE \$50.00 TO HOMESTART.  
HomeStart is a local charity that redistributes used furniture to those in need.  **HomeStart Foundation**

Custom Sofas • Sofas To Go • Sofabeds  
*Sofa So Good*

1401 W 8th Avenue One Block East of Granville at Hemlock sofasogood.ca 604 • 879 • 4878

“35 people who were living in a tent city during the Olympics have just been housed but everyone knows a home is more than a roof over your head. We’re the next step on the path away from homelessness and towards stability.” says Vikki Stevenson, Executive Director of HomeStart, which works with over 80 agencies in the Lower Mainland, including BC Housing and the Salvation Army, to provide basic furnishings.

“This comes at a crucial time for us. We are in desperate need of

funding to help keep us on the road. We depend on donations for nearly 90% of our funding.” Last year HomeStart furnished homes for over 800 people and the demand continues to rise.

“We believe our customers will be making a real difference – the people and families that come to HomeStart have no other way of making a comfortable home.” said Barbara Rasmussen, owner of Sofa So Good.

[Sofa So Good](#) is located at 1401 W. 8th Avenue in Vancouver.

If you or your company would like to get involved with helping out like this, we’d love to hear from you!

## **“It's Like Black and White” Thank You From a Client.**

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“You can’t believe what an effect having this furniture has made on my three children”, said Karen.\* “There was nothing in their rooms, nowhere for them to sit quietly and do homework and meals were totally makeshift. They were so unsettled - even though we were in this apartment and safe it wasn’t a proper home for us. You guys were great! It’s like black and white – I am showing off my beautiful furniture to everyone. Keep doing what you do. You have really made an amazing difference”.

*\*names and details have been changed for privacy.*

## **We Need Your Help**

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The requests for our services are up 30% so far this year! These are from people who are new immigrants, single women and their children, refugees and aboriginal families. They are just trying to get by and have nothing left over after paying rent and buying groceries. There are fantastic offers of furniture flowing in post-Olympics but it costs money to bring the service to people – and we are critically short of money! We’d love to be operating more hours and days a week but we can’t afford to. That means the people we want to help are just waiting longer and longer without basic furniture.

- \$100 will pay 1/3 of our monthly utilities
- \$275 will furnish one home, including all furniture, movers’ wages and delivery costs
- \$400 will keep our delivery truck running for a month
- \$2600 will pay one month’s rent for our warehouse

## Youth, Community and Family Services Helped

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*Thanks to all our volunteers especially lone Mah and the team from UBC Navigators who came to help us out at the warehouse in March!*

HomeStart supports 80+ front line agencies and their workers. All of the families that Barb Forsyth works with at **Watari** struggle with drug/alcohol or mental health issues. Brought up in poverty, coming through foster homes and now working to make lasting positive change they are used to having nothing and being told “no”.

“That’s why HomeStart is so important to them. My clients are trying to establish a home. To be a family and have their children with them they have to have a table & chairs for their kids to eat at and a dresser to put their clothes in. I love going to the warehouse with them and having your coordinator Nitra help them choose furniture that will create a comfortable space! It helps them stretch their dollars – they would not be able to buy groceries and furniture. We depend on HomeStart to help our clients – I don’t know what we’d do without you!”

Barb Forsyth  
Transitioning to Independence for Pregnant & Parenting Youth  
[Watari](#)

## HomeStart Policies

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### Pick Ups

- Pickup is by donation. A minimum of \$25 is encouraged.
- Furniture must be clean, functional and in good repair. HomeStart staff and volunteers can refuse to take any furniture that is in poor shape or of poor quality.
- We prefer to pick up more than one item at a time to use our limited staff and resources most effectively, but will make exceptions for large or much needed items.
- Donors who wish to deliver furniture to our warehouse must make arrangements to do so. Dumped furniture that is poor quality or ruined by the weather needs to be carted to the dump. Please spare us this unnecessary expense so we can focus our resources on getting good furniture to families in need.
- We cannot accept small items like portable kitchen appliances, blankets, pillows or dishes

because of our focus on household furniture. If you wish to donate these items, contact Gather and Give at Tel: (604) 637-2250 or [info@gatherandgive.org](mailto:info@gatherandgive.org).

## Deliveries

- Everyone receiving furniture must be referred to HomeStart by a community partner agency. We rely on our partners to determine who is most in need. Individuals may not request furniture for themselves or their friends.
- We provide household furniture to families that have none or only a little. We do not upgrade furniture or fill in pieces for families who already have furniture.

## Donating is Easy!

It costs HomeStart \$275 for every furniture delivery to families in need.

Costs for part-time staff, renting warehouse facilities and operating a delivery truck add up. If you can help us with a donation to offset these costs, the single mothers, refugees and working poor we serve will continue to get good quality furniture so they can live with dignity in Canada's most expensive city.

Tax receipts are provided for financial donations of \$20 or more. We accept cash, cheques and donations made online through [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org). We also accept gifts of stocks & bonds, RRSPs, insurance policies, annuities and other forms of planned giving.

By law, tax receipts cannot be given for furniture donations unless the donor pays for two independent evaluations.

**Charitable Registration Number:  
872814504 RR0001**



You can designate HomeStart Foundation when you contribute to the United Way Campaign at your workplace.

## Privacy

HomeStart does not sell, share or lend its mailing list. If you wish to unsubscribe to this e-newsletter, please let us know at [info@homestart.ca](mailto:info@homestart.ca)

## Contact Us

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To donate furniture, funds or your time, contact:

Nitra Plesko, Coordinator

[nplesko@homestart.ca](mailto:nplesko@homestart.ca)

604.708.9556

### **Mailing Address\***

HomeStart Foundation  
C/o Kitsilano Christian Community Church  
1708 West 16th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC.  
V6S 2M1

*\*This is a mailing address only. Please do not drop off furniture or other items at this address.*

[homestart.ca](http://homestart.ca)