

HELP YOUNG ADULTS TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER CARE/HOMELESSNESS

Local 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Marvin's Home, creates the warm feeling of home



Mel McDaniel, founder of Marvin's Home, knows firsthand the challenges of chronic housing instability. Raised by parents in a now-defunct religious order that constantly uprooted and relocated its members and their children, she understands the profound longing for a stable and secure home. She was voiceless, powerless, and yearned for a "real home".

Mel's background in social work and interior design led her to the creation of Marvin's Home, named after Marvin, her trusted rescue dog. The mission: to provide comfortable and intentional home furnishings for those in need. Her dedication and passion for our mission have made Marvin's Home a beacon of hope for young adults facing the challenging transition from foster care or homelessness into independent living.

WHAT MARVIN'S HOME DOES

At Marvin's Home, we believe that everyone deserves a safe and comfortable place to call home. To help achieve this, we provide gently used furniture and home goods, along with some brand-new basics like pillows, to offer a sense of belonging, safety, and comfort. Most of the individuals we help don't have any memories of these feelings that so many of us take for granted. For many, it is the first space they can call home.

We often partner with Valley Youth House, a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit that offers essential services such as housing, counseling, skills training, and more to vulnerable and homeless youth. They refer their clients who are working towards independent living once they have secured a place to live. They arrive with not much more than clothes. We work with them to understand their needs and preferences and transform the empty space into a home. Witnessing their reactions during the "reveal" of their furnished homes has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Our dedicated volunteers collect and transport furniture and furnishings, often generously donated by Mel's interior design clients and now by individuals all over the region. We're also fortunate to have support from Redirected Wood Company, a local business that crafts exquisite handmade tables for our installs. Manna on Main Street, another local charity, also partners with us to provide a bag full of pantry items for each install.

HOME ON MAIN

What happens when we have furniture donated that won't work with an upcoming Marvin's Home project? Home on Main is a unique upcycled home store that opened in the fall of 2022 as a companion shop to Marvin's Home. The concept is simple: gently preowned items and one-of-a-kind vintage pieces are carefully curated and sold, with 100% of the profits going directly

to fund all of Marvin's Home activities. You can stop in at 810 W. Main Street, Lansdale for a shopping experience that supports our work. We have now partnered with Small Batch Kitchen, a local, woman-owned company that makes incredibly delicious jams and spreads and so much more!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Marvin's Home relies on the generosity of our community and supporters to continue making a meaningful impact. Donations can be made in the form of household goods, items purchased from our wish lists, or cash. There are also many ways to volunteer.

All furniture and home goods donations need to be approved before they are dropped off or before a pickup is scheduled (and please note a fee is charged for pickup services). You can email details to info@marvinshome.org. We do not take items that are too large, heavy, or damaged. We also do not accept used bed frames or mattresses. Lamps, side tables, dressers, chairs, sofas, and artwork are all examples of what we use.

For the brand-new necessities, we have wish lists on Amazon, Target, and IKEA. You'll find items like hand towels, bed linens, shower curtains, and other items you generally wouldn't want used.

We're always looking for individuals of all ages willing to volunteer! We have many projects such as painting furniture, making art, sorting sheets, and moving furniture. Our Home on Main location is big enough to host larger groups, and we've been fortunate to have many volunteer groups from schools, churches, and businesses.

For more information about Marvin's Home and Home on Main, visit our website: marvinshome.org. Together, we can show these young adults that the community cares about them and is here to help them on their path to a brighter future.

