

Ashley Homestore Delivers Sweet Dreams and Beds to Riverside County Foster Children

Before they'd reached a Riverside warehouse in December, one of 50 new beds coming from Ashley Homestores in Colton had already been set aside for a little boy entering foster care that day.

Since 2010 Hope to Dream has gifted more than 100,000 children in North America with twin beds, including the mattress, frame, bedding and pillow with donations from a portion of mattress sales at Ashley Homestores nationwide.

"We are proud to support Riverside County foster children and families with beds from this program," said Kurt Haines, president, Ashley Homestore. "It is our belief that every child deserves a good night's sleep. Our thanks to Riverside County Faith in Motion for what they do to support these children and for giving them the resources they need to achieve a successful life."

Stacking the boxes of items from Ashley Homestore onto a warehouse dock, Irene Capen said it was no surprise the new beds were already being matched to children in need.

"The need is so great," said Capen, Manager of Faith in Motion. The faith-based collaborative contracts with DPSS to recruit foster families, support foster youth, prevent reentry into the system, and link Riverside County children and families to resources.

"Each child in foster care must have a bed of their own. The beds often go to relative placements," Capen said. "We don't want the lack of a bed to become an obstacle to helping families stay together."

Social workers and regional managers review the needs of foster children and families and submit agreed-upon requests. Civic groups, businesses, and churches step in to help Faith in Motion answer the needs and strengthen supports for at-risk families, Capen said.

"These new beds are a blessing. We are grateful to Ashley Furniture for recognizing how important this simple household item is to the wellbeing of foster children and families," Capen said. A handful of volunteers from Riverside-area churches joined Capen and the Ashley delivery drivers to unload the cargo.

Julia Gardner, an outreach coordinator with Immanuel Lutheran Church and Faith in Motion partner, said church volunteers have been making quilts and raising money to help foster youth celebrate the holidays. She hoisted boxes of new beds onto a dolly and pushed the donations into the warehouse.

"I do this for the Lord," Gardner said, as an Ashley Furniture truck rumbled by. "I make time to do this because helping these children and families is what's in my heart to do."

To learn more about Faith in Motion email Irene Capen at icapen@fosterall.org or call 951-228-5553



Faith-based partners at Wellness Warehouse in Riverside, unload beds donated by Ashley Furniture for foster youth. (Left to right) Gustavo Siordia, Julia Gardner, Irene Capen, Pastor Vince Bueno, Elisha Bueno, and Pastor Otis Coutsoumpos.