



**Furnish
Forward**
Your local furniture bank

FULL CIRCLE

ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2025/2026

Dignity

Sustainability

Equity

Community

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Furnish Forward respectfully acknowledges the xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), sə́lilwət (Tseil-Waututh), qíćə́y (Katzie), kʷikwə́łəm (Kwikwetlem), Qayqat, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, and Tsawwassen peoples whose unceded traditional territories our organization resides. These Nations have stewarded these lands and waters since time immemorial, and their relationship to this territory has never been surrendered, extinguished, or diminished, despite generations of colonization and displacement.

We recognize that the very notion of "home," which sits at the heart of our mission, carries a different and deeper meaning for the Indigenous peoples of this region, whose homes, communities, and ways of life were disrupted by settlement and dispossession. As an organization dedicated to helping families furnish and build stable homes, we understand that true stability begins with justice, and we cannot separate our work from the ongoing legacy of colonization that continues to affect Indigenous communities today. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, gather, and do this work on these lands, and we recognize that gratitude alone is not enough.

Furnish Forward is committed to moving beyond acknowledgement toward meaningful action: deepening our understanding of the histories and current realities of these Nations, building respectful and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous communities, and examining how our programs and partnerships can better support Indigenous-led organizations and initiatives. We offer this acknowledgement not as a finished statement, but as a continuing commitment to listening, learning, and acting in the spirit of truth and reconciliation.



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*Dignity
Sustainability
Equity
Community*



Welcome to Furnish Forward's first annual report.

As a Vancouver-based non-profit and social enterprise established in 2024, we are rooted in the belief that everyone deserves the basics of a dignified and comfortable home.

It is our mission to fight furniture poverty through sustainable, community-driven solutions that bring people together. We operate a pick-up service to give unwanted furniture a second life with individuals and families in need. Our goal is to help create homes, reduce waste, and promote a more circular economy in Metro-Vancouver.

Through these pages you will find an honest account of where we started, what we built, who we served, and where we are going next.

We also share this report in gratitude for the people who make this work possible; donors, volunteers, partners, supporters, and most importantly our clients who deserve to see the change their generosity and trust helped create.



"Founders Asad & Muskan loading donated furniture—a part of the everyday effort behind our mission"

YEAR 1 AT GLANCE

A first year of turning furniture waste into community resilience. and building the foundation to do more.



25
HOUSEHOLDS
SERVED



193
FURNITURE ITEMS
PICKED-UP



8,685
KILOGRAMS OF
FURNITURE DIVERTED
FROM LANDFILL

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS



Furnish Forward began with a simple belief: quality furniture should not be discarded when people in our community are trying to build safe, comfortable homes without the means to furnish them.

What started as an idea quickly became early mornings, rented trucks, crowded storage units, long pickup days, and countless conversations with donors, families, volunteers, and community partners. In the beginning, we were doing almost everything ourselves—coordinating pickups, lifting furniture, managing deliveries, building partnerships, and learning through every challenge.

Those experiences continue to shape who we are today. Since launching, we have seen that furniture is about much more than household items. A bed can offer rest. A table can bring a family together. A desk can support a student. A sofa can help a new space begin to feel like home.

Since our launch, Furnish Forward has completed 39 pickups, saved 193 furniture items, diverted approximately 8,685 kilograms from landfills, and redistributed 131 items to 27 households. Behind every number is a donor who chose reuse, a volunteer who gave their time, a partner who trusted us, and a family beginning a new chapter.

We were also honoured to be recognized as a Canucks Community Hero and to receive the Recycling Council of British Columbia's Youth Achievement Award. These moments affirmed that furniture redistribution is both a social service and an important part of building a more circular and equitable community.



Asad Nayani

Muskan Momin

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers, team members, donors, and community partners. Furnish Forward has grown because people have believed in the mission and contributed their time, resources, knowledge, and trust.

Looking ahead, we aim to expand our reach across Metro Vancouver, build stronger partnerships with businesses and community organizations, improve our impact measurement, and create a more reliable supply of essential furniture.

Most importantly, we will remain grounded in dignity. The people we serve are rebuilding, settling, studying, recovering, and creating homes. They deserve access to quality furniture, choice, and respect.

We are proud of how far Furnish Forward has come, and we know this is only the beginning.

Thank you for moving this work forward with us.

With gratitude,

Asad Nayani
Founder & President

Muskan Momin
Co-Founder & VP



SOMEWHERE IN METRO VANCOUVER, A FAMILY IS SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR TONIGHT.

DEFINING THE PROBLEM.

“Furniture poverty is the inability to access, afford, or maintain the essential household items needed for a functional, safe, and healthy home”

— Furnish Together Coalition

WHY FURNITURE POVERTY IS HARD TO COUNT

Canada measures poverty using income thresholds but income alone doesn't capture what it feels like to move into a bare apartment with nowhere to sit and no bed to sleep in.

There is currently no national measure of furniture poverty in Canada. That gap means the need often goes unrecorded, even as it goes unmet every day across Metro Vancouver.

A PROBLEM BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

Furniture poverty rarely makes headlines. It does not happen on the street. It happens behind the doors of neighbours, coworkers, friends and family members.

A home is more than four walls. It's a table to eat at, a bed to sleep in, and a couch to sink into after a hard day. The basics that make a house feel like a home. A basic everyone deserves access to.

WHAT WE DO KNOW

1 in 6

Canadians cannot afford to replace worn-out furniture.

Brunet, 2021

75%

of Canadian renters report sacrificing basic living essentials to make ends meet.

Habitat For Humanity Canada, 2024

FURNITURE POVERTY

Who it affects.



Low-income households

Metro Vancouver households spend a large share of their income on housing and transportation. There is often nothing left over. Furnishing a new home is not realistic for households already stretched past their limits.

Metro Vancouver Cost Burden Study, 2025



Newcomers & refugees

Government assistance rarely covers the full cost of furnishing a home. Families end up sleeping on floors, eating from laps, and building a life in rooms that echo. All the while learning a new city, and new systems.

AMSSA & BC Non-Profit Housing Association, 2024



Crisis survivors

British Columbia is no stranger to sudden, devastating loss. Wildfires, floods, and other emergencies can force residents to evacuate with little warning. Fire and floods do not just take walls; they take homes and the belongings which fill them.

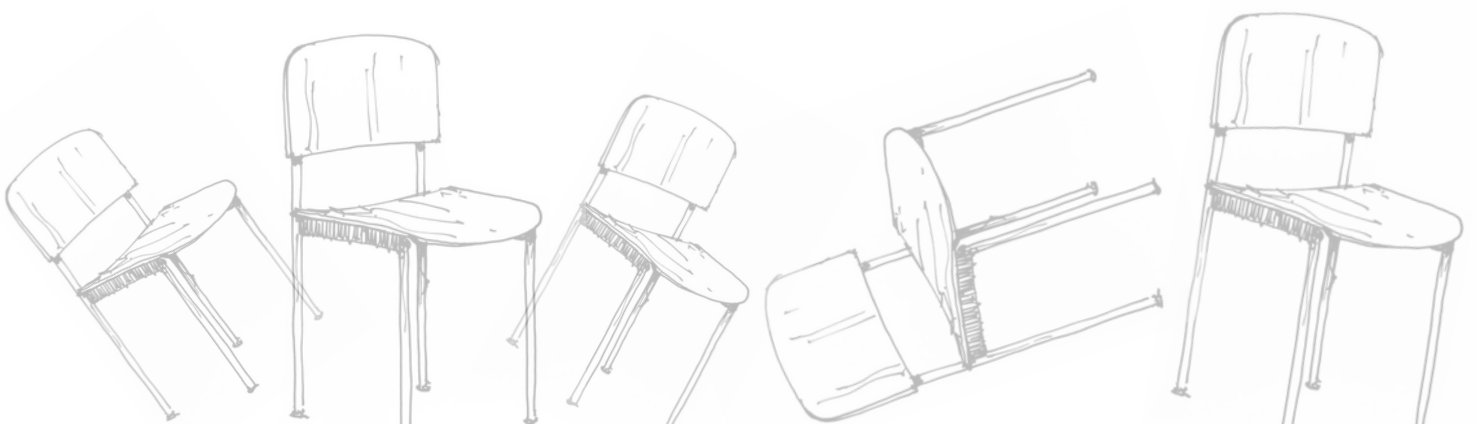
AMSSA & BC Non-Profit Housing Association, 2024



Transitioning from homelessness

Metro Vancouver's 2025 Point-in-Time Count found thousands of people experiencing homelessness across the region. For those moving into housing, getting keys is only the beginning. An empty space is not yet a home, and starting fresh without furniture is a barrier to stability.

Homelessness Services Association of BC, 2025



THE OTHER HALF OF THE PROBLEM

What We All Throw Away.

While families sit in empty rooms, thousands of pieces of usable furniture head to Metro Vancouver's landfills.

Approximately 2.7 million tonnes of municipal solid waste (including sofas, beds, tables & dressers) were disposed of across BC in 2023 alone.

Furniture with years of life left thrown away — not because it no longer works, but because there's no easy way to pass it on.



THIS IS THE GAP FURNISH FORWARD EXISTS TO CLOSE.

Not just between people who have too much furniture and those who have none, but between the way things are and the way they could be:
a city where a couch does not go to landfill when a family next door needs it.

From picked-up couches, beds, chairs, and dressers to fully furnished rooms, every piece rescued becomes part of a household's everyday life. What follows is the measurable difference that one delivery makes—in sleep, in health, and in the feeling of home.

WHAT A FURNISHED HOME MAKES POSSIBLE.



*“I have a bed to sleep in,
soft blankets to keep me
warm. These things help
me rest well and feel good
every day.”*

— **Rayden**, Grade 6, Medicine Hat, Alberta
Habitat for Humanity Canada, 2026

THE SCIENCE OF A HOME.



**A furnished home is not just a comfort.
It is a foundation for rest, health, and safety.**

When that foundation is missing, the effects show up in the body, in sleep, in a person's ability to focus — in ways that are quiet and often invisible at a national level, but entirely measurable in the lives of individual families.

In 2025, a US peer organization conducted a client study. They asked their clients how they felt before vs after receiving furniture.

Here is what their testimonies tell us:

BEFORE RECEIVING FURNITURE

A Wider Circle, 2025 client study

- 8 in 10** experienced body aches from sleeping without a proper bed
- 7 in 10** had trouble sleeping
- 7 in 10** found it hard to relax or felt constantly on edge
- 3 in 10** said their children struggled to complete homework

AFTER RECEIVING FURNITURE

A Wider Circle, 2025 client study

- 9/10** felt more comfortable in their home
- 8/10** reported their overall quality of life substantially improved
- 7/10** reported better physical and mental health
- 8/10** parents had better interactions with their children

(Data from one month after receiving furniture)

THIS DATA IS NOT A COINCIDENCE.

It is what happens when people who are already trying, already showing up, already holding things together are finally given the basic tools to do it in. Furniture does not create resilience. It removes the friction that stands in its way.

These numbers come from families who had just received furniture: a bed, a table, a couch, for the first time in a long time. Within a single month, 8 in 10 reported that their quality of life had substantially improved. Not eventually. Not after years of support. After one delivery.



HOW YOUR SPARE FURNITURE BECOMES THE START OF SOMEONE ELSE'S HOME.

Every year, thousands of pieces of furniture are thrown away in Metro Vancouver. Not because they are broken, but because there is no easy way to pass them on.

Furnish Forward exists to close that gap.

Here is our operational model:

BOOK A PICK-UP 01

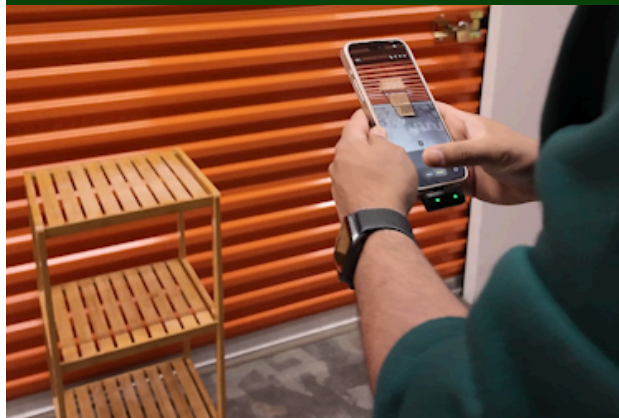
You book a pickup for furniture you no longer need. Every piece approved for donation skips the landfill and moves toward a home where it will be used and loved.



MATCH 03

When furniture is collected, we assess it and then match it to households who have submitted a delivery request.

Every match is intentional; we aim to bring not just any furniture, but the right furniture for the space and the people in it.



02 COLLECT

Once your pick-up is confirmed, our team takes care of all the heavy lifting: we collect items directly from your home or business making it simple to pass your furniture forward.



04 DELIVER

We deliver directly to the recipient's home: furniture is always brought in, placed, and set up, so a family walks into a space that feels complete.

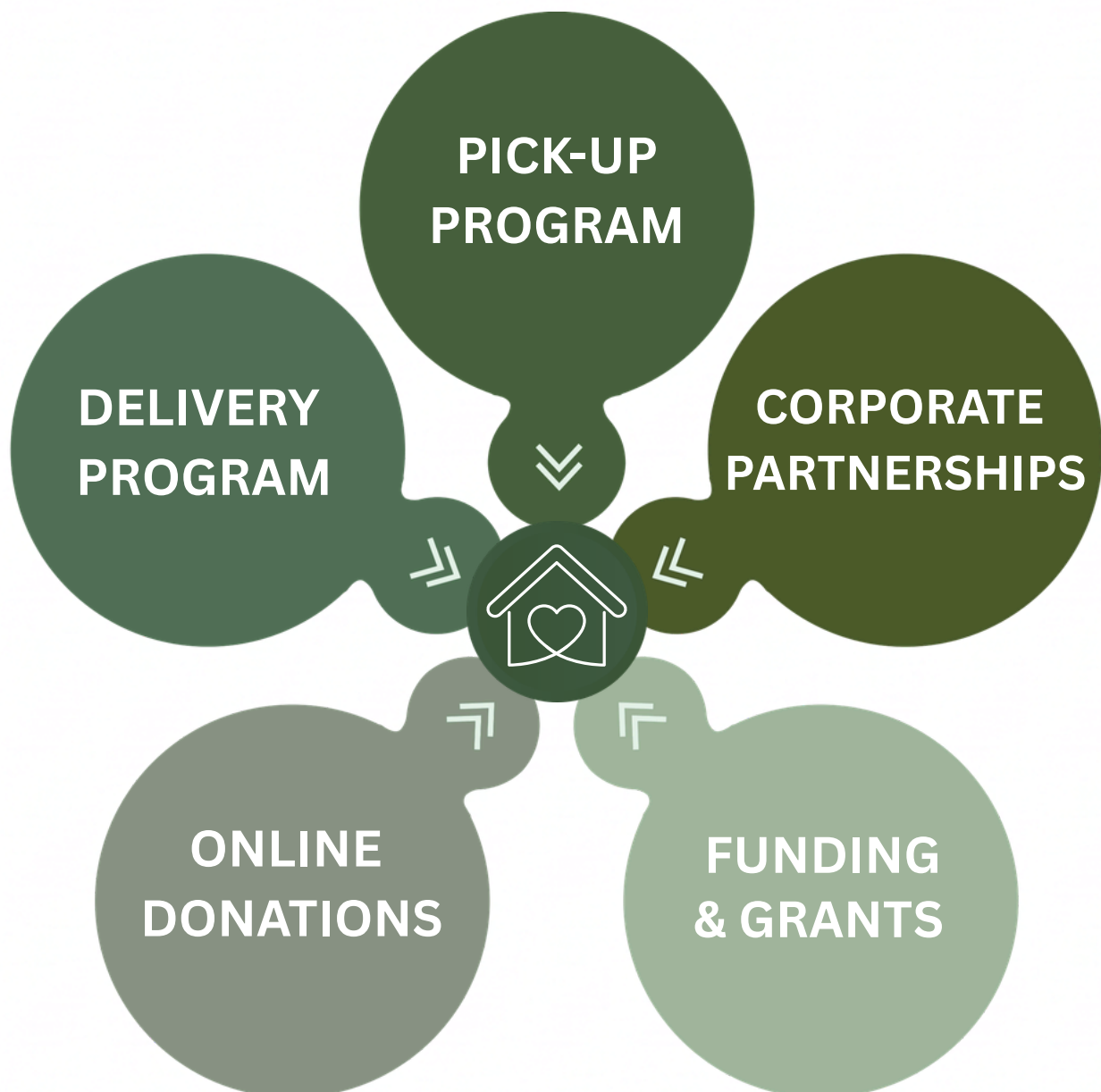


HOW WE FUND OUR WORK

At Furnish Forward we operate a self-sustaining social enterprise. We earn part of our revenue through sources like grants, corporate partnerships and online donations.

Another part of our revenue comes from our pickup and delivery programs, which help cover the basic operating costs associated with these services.

This means that each paid pick-up and delivery fee helps fund free furniture for the households who need it.



OUR FUNDING STREAMS: EXPLAINED



WHEN SOMEONE BOOKS A PICKUP:

They pay a service fee that covers the cost of collecting and transporting their furniture.

This fee helps fund the program that makes furniture available free of charge to households facing furniture poverty.



WHEN A HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES FURNITURE:

They pay only a delivery fee to help cover the cost we incur during a delivery.

Never for the furniture itself, which is always free and help funded by the pick-up and delivery program.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Online donations give us flexible funding exactly where it's needed most. They help cover everyday costs: trucks, fuel, storage space, coordination, that are essential but often invisible.

Every online gift strengthens our ability to keep saying "yes" when a family needs beds, tables, and basic comfort at home.

FUNDING & GRANTS

Grants provide the backbone for our growth.

Each grant turns community and institutional trust into direct capacity to furnish more homes.

They allow Furnish Forward to scale up faster, invest in systems and staffing, and reach more households than fee-for-service income alone could support at this stage.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

What they do for us:

Corporate partnerships are a powerful, predictable source of revenue. By working with businesses on furniture turnover, warehouse clear-outs, and workplace engagement, we generate income that supports operations while diverting quality items from the landfill.

What they do for you:

Corporate partners play a crucial role in keeping good furniture out of the landfill and putting it into homes where it's urgently needed. Together, we offer companies a clear, practical way to reduce waste, support local families, and demonstrate that community investment is part of how they do business.

FURNITURE DIVERSION IS CLIMATE ACTION.

By keeping furniture in use and out of landfills, we help B.C. move toward its climate goals of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 40% in 2030 and 80% by 2050.

— Government of British Columbia, 2023



When we pick up furniture, we are not just helping a family furnish their home.

We are also shrinking our community's carbon footprint.

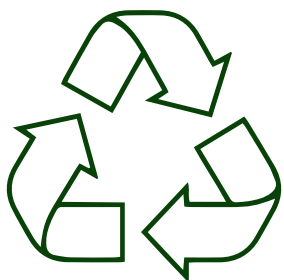
MOST UNWANTED FURNITURE IN METRO VANCOUVER STILL GOES TO LANDFILLS.

When this happens, the “soft” parts of furniture – wood, fabric, foam – slowly break down and give off greenhouse gases over time.

This is harmful to the environment because the process of furniture breaking down in landfills contributes to CO2 emissions in our atmosphere.

When you book a furniture pickup with us, you help keep usable furniture out of landfills and into homes. This helps stop unnecessary furniture landfill emissions before they start, while providing a household in need with essential furniture items.

As an organization we wanted to calculate our estimated environmental impact to show you, our community, how Furnish Forward is working to support Metro Vancouver's environmental health and future.



A NOTE TO OUR READERS:

We believe in transparency as the foundation of everything we do. We also believe in accessible communication.

Here is the breakdown of how we determined our climate impact.

No big words or scary formulas, just a basic process we can all follow:

Full methodology available at furnishforward.ca

OUR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

8,685 kg

of total furniture
diverted

2,100 kg

of CO2 emissions
saved

THE NUMBERS: EXPLAINED

We diverted a total of “8,685” kg of furniture from ending up in landfills.

When a furniture item does end up going to a landfill, a portion of the furniture item will rot and release greenhouse gasses.

Because these furniture items we diverted were prevented from ending up in a landfill, the CO2 each item would have released has now been saved.

Furniture is made of many types of materials. Only some of those materials rot in landfill and release gas – things like wood, fabric, and foam – not metal legs or glass tops.

“8,685” kg represents all furniture materials.

To calculate the amount of CO2 emissions saved when we diverted a total of 8685 kg of furniture, we needed to find the portion of that total furniture weight that is made of materials that rot. So we subtracted lamps and other mostly-metal items. This left us with **“6,523” kg of furniture weight that can rot.**

That way, the 2100 kg of CO2 emissions saved is based only on that **“6,523” kg**, representing furniture materials that actually release CO2. No overexaggeration, only a conservative and research-backed value.

Furnish Forward helped save an estimated “2,100” kilograms of CO2 emissions.

(Visit furnishforward.ca for the full methodology)

BUT WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

2.1 tonnes” is still hard to picture. So we translated it into something easier to see in your head: trees.

Using Canadian research, an average urban tree absorbs about 9.2 kg of greenhouse gases a year.

That means that our 2100 kg of saved CO₂ emissions is estimated to equal the same amount of CO₂ saved by roughly 228 trees growing for an entire year.

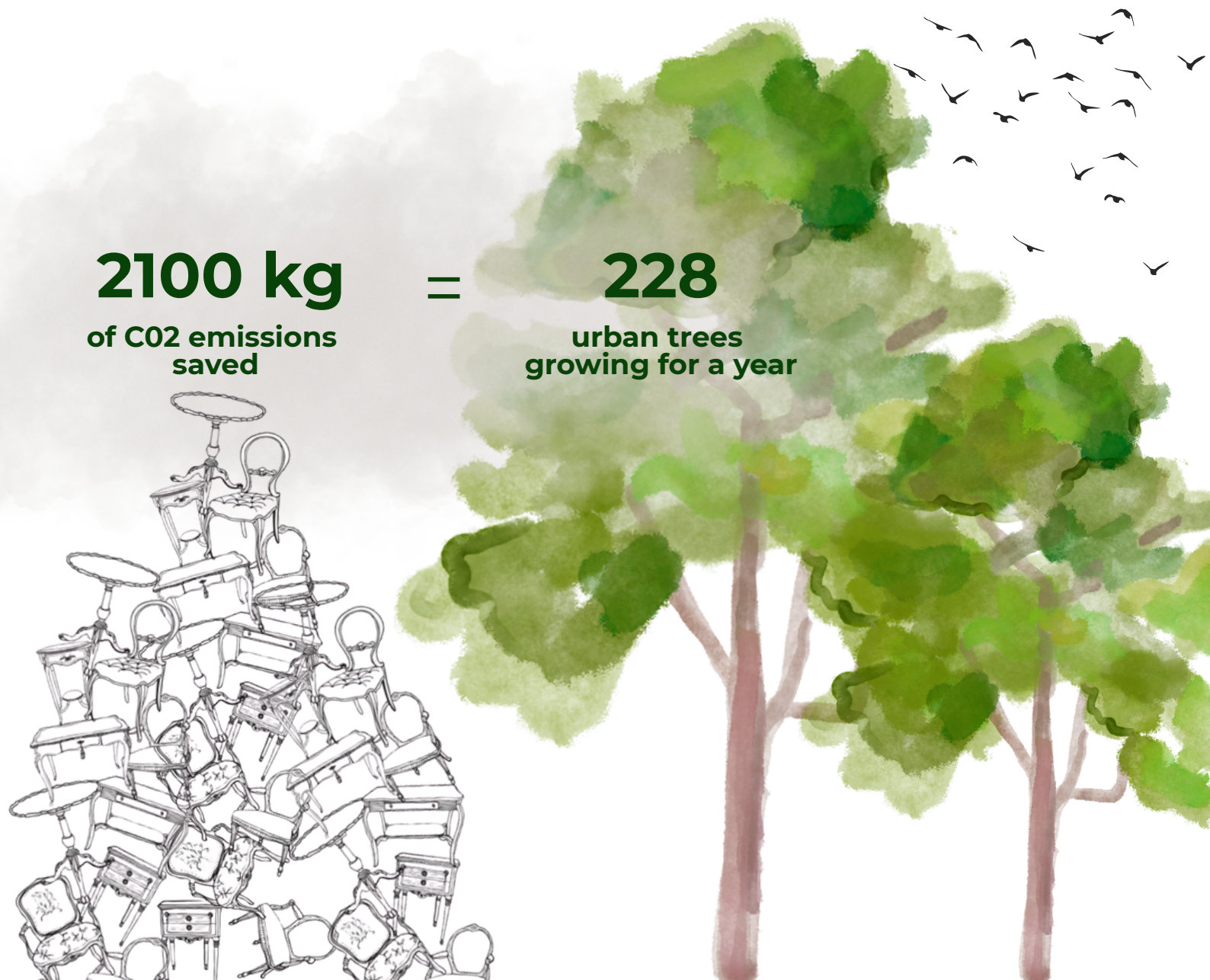
2100 kg

of CO₂ emissions
saved

=

228

urban trees
growing for a year



WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MAKES POSSIBLE

Furnish Forward is in its first year.

We have not yet committed a formal Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation, but we are building toward one intentionally. When you support Furnish Forward, you're not just being generous — you're making an investment, and like any investor, you deserve to know your dollars return.

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

An SROI analysis adds up the social, environmental, and economic value an organization creates and compares it to what was put in. Instead of counting outputs alone, it asks a simple question.

“If every outcome had a price tag, what would this work be worth?”

An SROI is the kind of proof point we want Furnish Forward supporters to have.

Our goal for Year 2 is to commission a formal SROI evaluation of our own.

UNTIL THEN, HERE ARE 3 THINGS WE CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE

1

Every paid pickup helps make the next delivery possible — and the furniture at the end of that trip is always free.

2

Every item diverted is one less piece of furniture in a Metro Vancouver landfill.

3

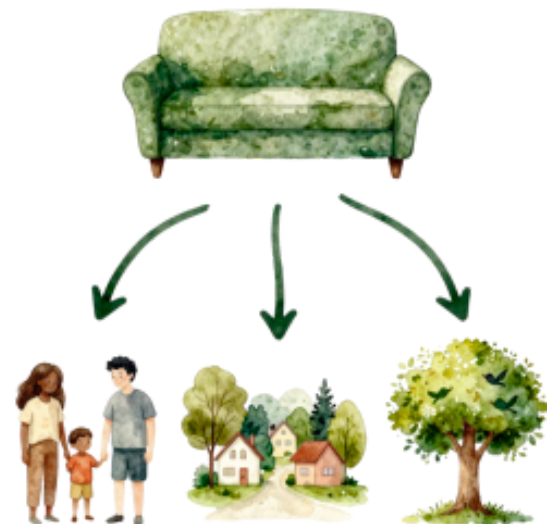
Every delivery turns an empty room into a place someone can call home.

EXTERNAL BENCHMARK — NOT A FURNISH FORWARD FIGURE

A comparable Canadian furniture bank recently completed this kind of analysis. The result: a return on investment in social terms — value created for families, communities, and the environment.

For every **\$1** invested, they created **\$6.38** in measurable value.

FURNITURE BANK TORONTO, 2025



YEAR 2: DOUBLING OUR IMPACT

Twice the households furnished, twice the furniture diverted.
To reach our year 2 goals, we need to grow every part of
what makes this work:



MORE FURNITURE PICK-UPS



MORE DELIVERY CAPACITY



MORE REFFERAL PARTNERSHIPS



**MORE PEOPLE WHO BELEIVE THAT A FURNISHED
HOME SHOULD NOT BE A LUXURY**



The furniture is out there. The families are waiting.
With your support, Furnish Forward will keep closing this gap one
home at a time.





BOOK A PICK-UP

Have furniture you no longer need? We'll pick it up and make sure it goes directly into a home that needs it.

Schedule a pickup at
furnishforward.ca



PARTNER WITH US

Are you a housing, health, or social service organization? Let's talk about how furniture access fits into the support you provides.



VOLUNTEER

Join our pickup and delivery crew, help with operations, or bring your skills to our growing team.

Get involved at
furnishforward.ca

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

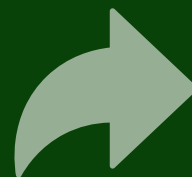
furnishforward.ca



MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Every dollar supports pickups, deliveries, and the operational infrastructure that keeps Furnish Forward running.

Donate online at furnishforward.ca



SHARE OUR STORY

Know someone with furniture to give?

Know someone who needs it?

Share this report.
Tag us.
Tell someone.

OUR PEOPLE



Furnish Forward's first year of growth came from people: the volunteers who gave their time on the truck and behind the scenes, and the organizations across Metro Vancouver who began to see what real furniture access could mean for the people they serve.



Volunteer Community

Volunteers play a vital role in the essential work we do here at Furnish Forward. Contributing time and skills on the truck, at events, and in specialized support where needed is a core part of what drives our impact as a team. We are deeply grateful to every person who has chosen to spend their time helping Furnish Forward grow; your care and effort live in every furnished room, every family and individual we are able to serve.

A Network That Is Growing

Over the course of Year 1, we reached out to peer organizations to explore what collaboration with Furnish Forward could look like — from referral pathways to coordinated furniture access for the people they serve. We continue to explore these essential relationships and our work towards formal partnerships.

3,252
volunteer hours
contributed since launch

This includes full-time volunteer leadership, student marketing support, and volunteer hours contributed through furniture pickups and deliveries. We appreciate every single person and every minute they have dedicated to fighting furniture poverty with furnish forward here in Metro Vancouver.



Furnish Forward exists because people showed up.

We are deeply grateful to our clients who booked pick-ups, giving their furniture items a second life and helping fellow community members find comfort in their homes.

To the volunteers who spent their days carrying furniture up unfamiliar stairwells, we could not do this without you.

Your time and your generosity are invaluable.

To the organizations who took a chance on a first-year furniture bank. And to every family who trusted us to bring a little more comfort into their home.

Thank you for putting your faith in us.

