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Charlotte-Area Furniture Bank *Beds for Kids* Marks 15 Years of Community Impact

*Celebrates milestone with strengthened capacity to serve families and
next chapter in organizational leadership*

Charlotte, N.C. – May 29, 2026 – Together with the Charlotte community, Beds for Kids proudly marks the nonprofit furniture bank’s 15-year anniversary, celebrating a legacy of addressing furniture poverty and serving families and children across the region.

What began as a mission to provide beds for children in need has grown into the Charlotte area’s largest and widely trusted furniture bank of its kind. Since inception, Beds for Kids has served nearly 10,000 families with over 280,000 beds and essential furnishings—reaching neighborhoods across Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union counties, and beyond.

As part of this milestone, the organization is opening the doors to a new warehouse and announcing the next chapter of leadership and board members, with longtime Director of Operations Zach Smith serving as incoming Executive Director and Lauren Evans continuing her service to the organization as she transitions from the executive director role to a position on the Board of Directors.

“This 15-year milestone is a testament to what’s possible when a community comes together around a simple but powerful belief: that for families who have worked hard to secure housing, the journey isn’t complete—families need the essential furnishings that make a home,” said Zach Smith incoming Executive Director of Beds for Kids. “Sadly, furniture is often the missing piece between housing and a place to call a home, and as families in Charlotte face this growing issue of furniture poverty and economic pressure, our role at Beds for Kids becomes even more essential. This anniversary isn’t just a moment to reflect and celebrate. It’s a launch point for expanding our reach and deepening our impact.”

“What started 15 years ago with a simple mission—to ensure every child has a bed—has grown into a movement powered by community, compassion, and purpose,” said Manny Rodrigues, Board Chair of Beds for Kids. “As we celebrate this milestone, we are not just reflecting on the lives we’ve touched but recommitting ourselves to the work ahead. Furniture is more than a necessity—it’s dignity, stability, and the foundation of a home.”

“I’m also incredibly proud of the Beds for Kids team, our partners, and this community—and excited to see Zach Smith step into the Executive Director role while honoring Lauren Evans’ outstanding service as she transitions to the Board of Directors,” said Rodrigues. “All of this builds on our foundation and strengthens our capacity as we continue forging forward to serve even more families in the years to come.”

Meeting a Growing Need in Charlotte

[Charlotte remains one of the fastest-growing cities in the country](#), with rising rent and limited affordable housing options contributing to increased furniture poverty and housing instability. Furniture poverty is when a family has a place to live, but not the basic furniture to make it a home, such as dining tables, dressers, or a bed for a child to sleep.

[According to regional data](#), a significant percentage of local households are cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, leaving little room for essential items like beds and furniture. For many families, that means children sleeping on floors, sharing overcrowded spaces, or going without basic home necessities.

A Milestone Moment

As it celebrates 15 years of impact, Charlotte-area furniture bank Beds for Kids is continuing to grow and evolve to meet the increasing needs of the local community. Together, these ongoing efforts position Beds for Kids to continue serving significantly more families each year, while maintaining the dignity-centered, high-touch approach that has defined its work for 15 years.

- **Leadership and Board Expansion:** The organization is welcoming new board members and community leaders with expertise in housing, philanthropy, and operations, strengthening its capacity to serve more families.

Longtime Director of Operations, Zach Smith, will serve as the organization’s next Executive Director as Lauren Evans transitions to a role on the organization’s Board of Directors.

Longest-tenured staff member Moses Dimmock, who is well known across the organization for his deep commitment to the mission, will step into a newly established Mission Director role, further strengthening the organization’s impact from within.

- **Strengthened Warehouse Capacity and Grand Opening Event:** To support rising demand, the organization has streamlined warehouse space, which will enable more efficient distribution of beds and essential furnishings.

A community ribbon-cutting event will take place on Thursday, June 4, 2026, inviting partners, donors, and the public to celebrate this next chapter. For those in the community who are interested in attending or learning more information about the event, visit

www.bedsforkids.org/15

- **Program Growth:** With plans to expand beyond its current service area of Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, and Union counties, Beds for Kids is working toward reaching families in every county that borders Mecklenburg, deepening its regional impact through expanded partnerships with local nonprofit and referral agencies and strengthened service delivery.

"We simply wouldn't be here without our dedicated supporters, partners and volunteers in the Charlotte community," said Smith. "This 15-year milestone is as much theirs as it is ours, and we invite everyone to celebrate with us. You can attend our upcoming warehouse grand opening event on June 4, make a donation, or partner with us to expand our impact."

About Charlotte Furniture Bank Beds for Kids

Beds for Kids, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is a trusted Charlotte-area furniture bank serving children and families across Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, and Union counties that delivers essential furnishings to local families experiencing furniture poverty. To learn more, visit www.bedsforkids.org.

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