

HOUSE WARMING

Help new families in MIFA Housing Opportunities get settled by showering them with household necessities! Families often arrive at MIFA with only the clothes on their backs. By hosting a housewarming shower, you can help build homes for these families with items they will use around the clock!

All you need for this exciting volunteer experience is an hour of time, a place to gather, and some light snacks. Encourage your colleagues to bring donations for MIFA, and enjoy watching everyone open gifts – contribution incentives such as casual days, pizza parties or ice cream socials might spur people into action! Gifts can then be delivered to MIFA headquarters. Be sure to take pictures of your housewarming party. MIFA will include these pictures on our website or in the *Hope In Action* newsletter!

About MIFA Housing Opportunities

While homelessness is often temporary, it can leave devastating effects on a family. But families who find MIFA's Housing Opportunities (MHO) program get a new lease on life and a chance to rebuild.

Designed especially for families who have been homeless, the program has grown from its original eight homes in 1984 to include 100 housing units today. MHO is transitional

housing, not a shelter. It is a hand up, not a handout! Residents must actively contribute to their success by maintaining jobs, paying "rent," attending Life Skills classes, and abiding by MHO rules and policies.

But MIFA residents receive more than counseling, legal help, training, housing, and encouragement. At the end of their year-long stay, families leave with something extra. Emboldened with new skills, behaviors, and renewed hope, families are also given the furniture from their MHO apartments and their own funds to start over - the money they paid to MIFA as rent is refunded. This creative combination of tangible and intangible support is the secret to MHO's success.

Gift Ideas

- Cookware
- Cookie sheets
- Bakeware
- Cooking utensils
- Dishtowels
- Small appliances
- Plates
- Cups/glassware
- Towels and wash cloths
- Sheets and bedding (full and twin sets)
- Bathroom toiletries
- Wall art



If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Emily Sharpe at (901) 529-4560 or esharpe@mifa.org.