



A Bed 4 Me

A nonprofit 501C3 organization providing beds for children who would otherwise be sleeping on the floor or inadequate spaces

At a Glance

Who We Are

Meeting the sleep space needs for the children of Okaloosa and Walton Counties

Who We Serve

children ages 2-18 from low to middle income families

Our Core Values

Integrity
Compassion
Happiness

Our History

Launched in 2016 by a small group of women with passion to help children dream

Our Future

Dreaming bright for the future





Who We Serve

Community Impact

- ☾ Almost **3,000** children served
- ☾ Eliminated waitlist for expedited delivery
- ☾ Impact 100 grant recipient for van purchase



Our mission is to provide children who are without an adequate sleep space a new bed. We believe that every child deserves to have a bed. Through our organization's program, we have a simple process as daily referrals come from self-referrals, teachers, social workers, guidance counselors, places of faith, family agencies and other nonprofits who identify children in need of a bed.

A big part of our program is getting to know each child, finding out their favorites and how they spend their time. We choose the bedding based on their input and every bed is designed for that child. Initially we averaged twenty-five bed deliveries a month.

Our bed kit includes a twin-size metal frame, new mattress, pillow, sheet set, and comforter. The frame has a unique design that is foldable and transportable while being sturdy enough to hold a thousand pounds - this allows families to take this bed with them during a relocation and supports a growing child into adulthood. Delivery day is truly a celebration of a safe sleep space while affirming the individual preference of each child in their bedding. It is a day of joy because a bed is simple - simply important.



A sleep space is the corner of a child's life that most people will never see. This is the space where they rest, where they grow, where they read, and where they dream.

Social Responsibility

Many children have a bedtime without a bed. When you think of childhood poverty, you don't usually think of a child going to sleep without a bed, yet, this is the reality for many. Children are sleeping on the floor, couch, recliner, inflatable mattress, or sharing mattresses with several other family members because a bed is financially out of reach. Families who are low-income, graduating from homeless transition programs, or leaving domestic violence shelters are in need for our team.

Local educators and medical providers recognize the negative impacts of poor sleep as children walk through their doors. Our organization delivers one piece of the solution for pediatric health. From our earliest days, we have kept our focus on the sleep space needs of the children in our community.



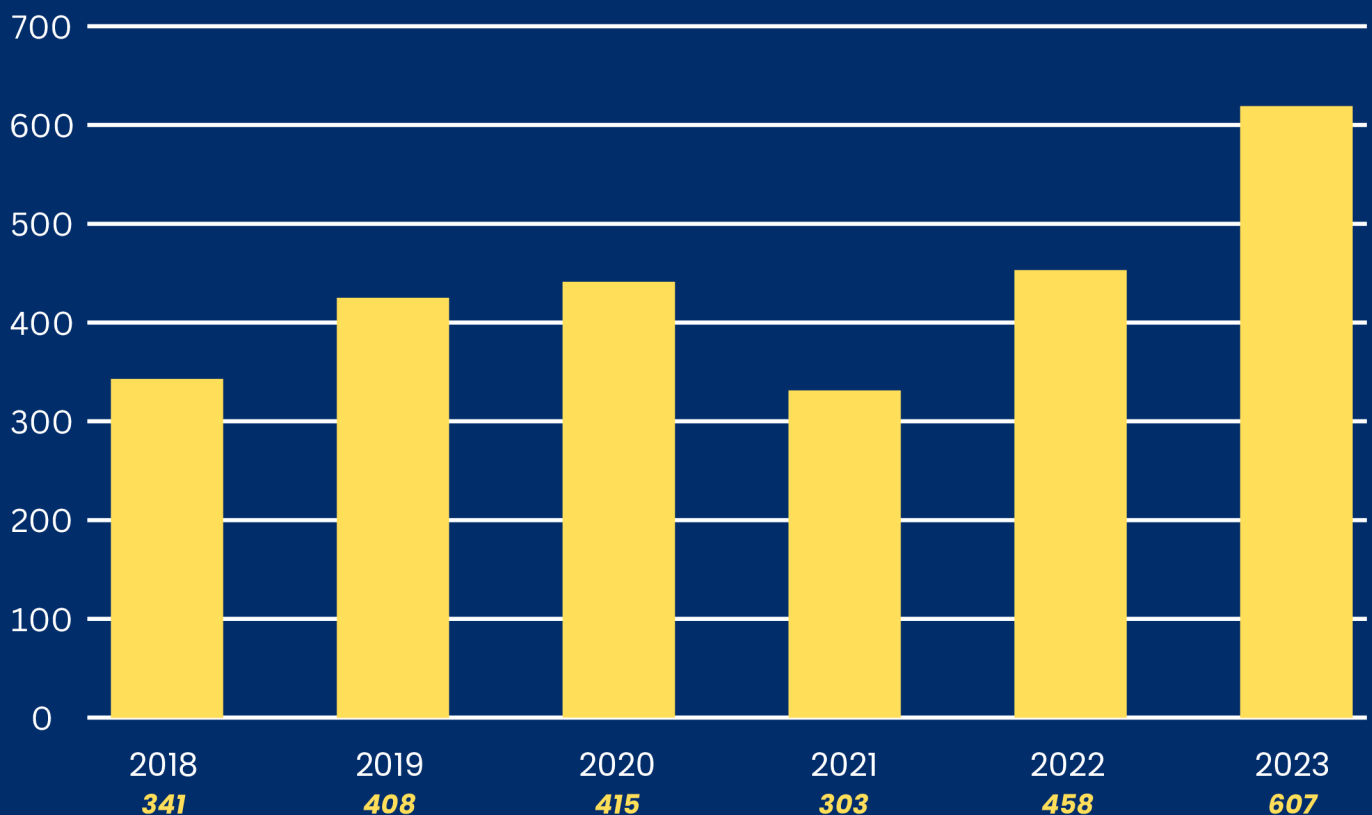
With 22% of the children in our community requiring public assistance, families are unable to afford the \$400 cost of a twin bed kit for each child.

Even through a global pandemic, we found creative ways to continue to meet the sleep space needs of each child. We have streamlined our process, built strong support from our suppliers, and expanded our presence in our community. Initially, we averaged twenty-five bed deliveries a month with a six-week wait time. Now, we deliver an average of forty-five new bed kits

per month to children who were sleeping in inadequate sleep spaces. Instead of five weeks to get a new referral a bed, it now takes a few days. Our original waitlists would average thirty children - those waitlists have been eliminated.

In the infancy of our organization, we dreamed of being able to supply 500 beds to area children. It felt like a long term goal that would take years to reach but by the end of our first year, we had delivered 408 beds. In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, we delivered our 1,000th bed with a bed celebration of our own. We kept dreaming, delivering, and sharing the stories of the families we serve. By the end of 2023, we had provided 2,734 children safe sleep spaces - those spaces allow children to sleep tight and dream bright.

Delivering Dreams is Our Business



Economic Viability

The launch of A Bed 4 Me Foundation was guided by a deep passion to meet the bed space needs of children in Okaloosa County, Florida. From the start, a strong network of talented volunteers gave countless hours in an effort to secure funding for beds one donation at a time. The initial cost of a bed kit was \$250, and A Bed 4 Me ambassadors used many platforms to raise money for each bed.

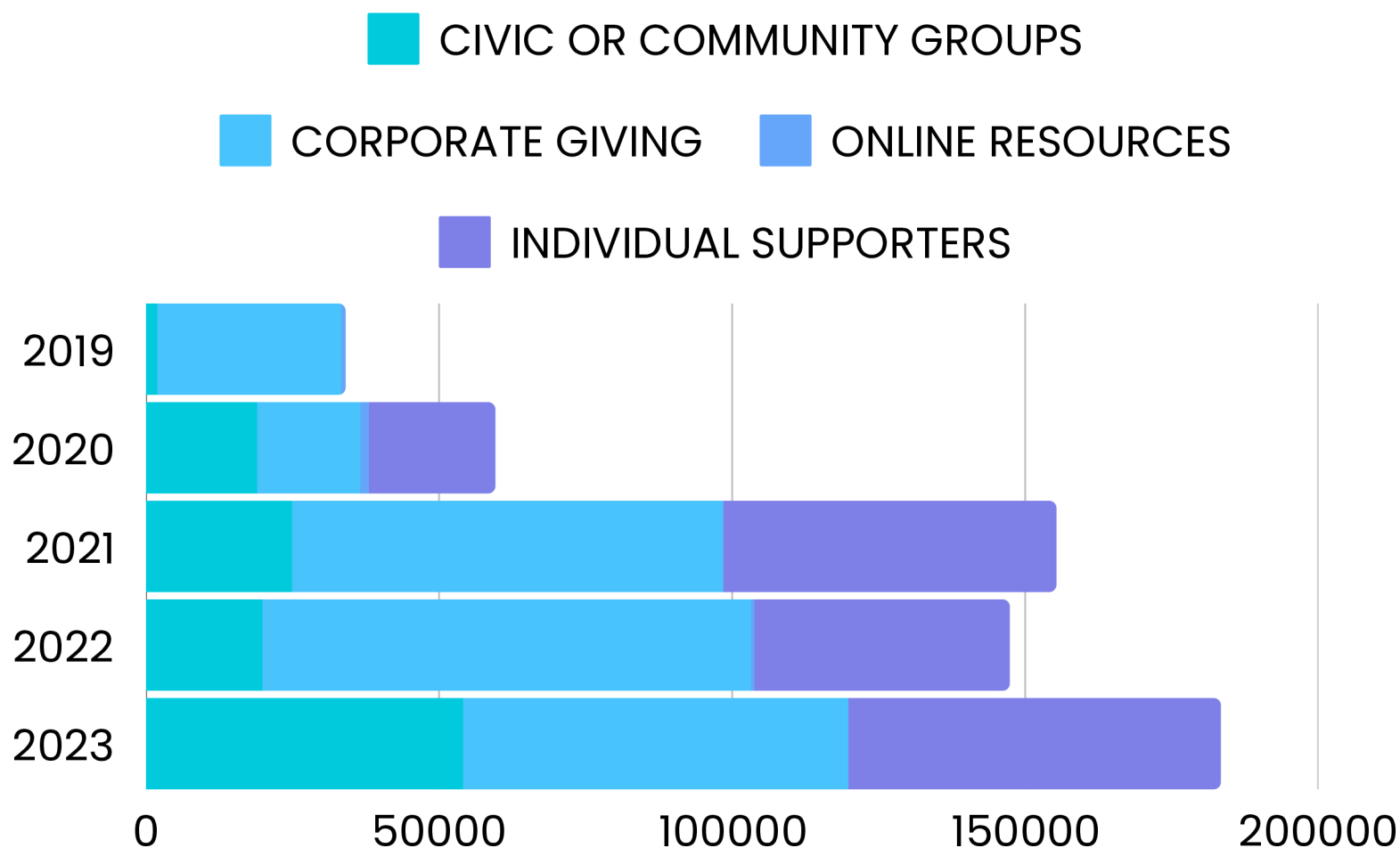
Over the last five years, the organization has been awarded financial grants from various corporate, civic, religious, and non-profit groups. Local chefs participate in the annual Dinner of Dreams with a four-course meal and silent auction for the event, which brings over \$30,000 in revenue annually. Community members donate their time, bedding, pillows, money, talents, and networks.

In 2019, A Bed 4 Me was awarded a grant by Impact100 of Northwest Florida to purchase a delivery van as well as additional frames and mattresses



The Board of Directors and Executive Director have transparently protected all of the dollars donated to maximize the mission and minimize overhead costs. Local business owners and public school leaders have generously shared or donated space without cost. Every day, neighbors bring neighbors to A Bed 4 Me events or deliveries because they all want to be a part of something wonderful.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Since the launch of A Bed 4 Me, our goal has been to keep costs and overhead as low as possible so more bed kits could be delivered. Revenue sources come from diverse streams of community members - corporate, public, private, and individuals across the panhandle of Florida. Local religious and service groups annually support our mission as well as businesses based in our delivery area. Annual income levels have increased by 30% allowing investment in personnel, reserve funds, inventory, funding expansion, and expedited delivery schedules while maintaining our overhead expenses to be as low as possible.

From fundraising events to cash donations to in-kind donations, individual supporters have been key to any success that we have had. Endless volunteer hours are donated to our organization to keep dreams coming true. Many companies will host a bedding or pillow drive to support inventory needs. Business owners and partnerships with local school districts have provided needed office or warehouse space over the years.

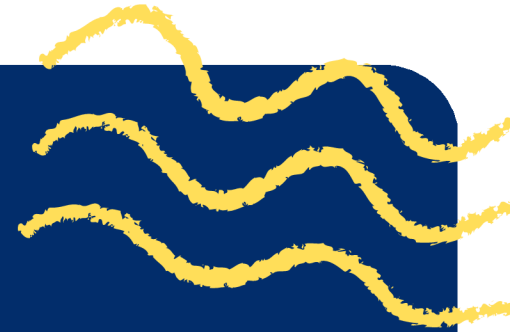






Children pay us
with smiles,
squeals, and
"thank you's!"

Core Values



Integrity

A Bed 4 Me feels that integrity is critical for all aspects of family and work life. We place priority on honesty, morals, and resolve.

Compassion

Compassion is essential to carrying out the mission of helping others. We strive to understand and show compassion to all.

Happiness

A big part of our organization is to bring some assistance and happiness to the families we partner alongside.



Our History & Our Dream

In 2016, a small group of Florida women officially launched a new non-profit in Okaloosa County with the dream of helping local families acquire safe sleep spaces for their children. Fundraising began through word of mouth and approaching local businesses for support or partnerships. The first bed kits from A Bed 4 Me were with bedding collected from donations, mattresses and bed frames stored at a local furniture store while bedding was kept in a founding member's garage. From there, the evolution of this foundation gradually expanded as the referral process was improved, introductory visits were refined to improve the bedding design selections, and expanded funding sources were found. The development of volunteer training and an expanded pool allowed for improved delivery of bed kits while also decreasing wait times. The first year, 408 bed kits were delivered to children in Okaloosa County.

Within the first few months of 2020, the world was facing the reality of a global pandemic and the key volunteers for A Bed 4 Me were meeting the deep challenges of how to keep a non-profit surviving during such difficult times. Community members and other non-profit organizations stepped in to support this small team while new approaches to daily tasks were developed. In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, fundraising resulted in a 70% increase in donations and another 415 children received a safe place to sleep which had become even more critical within the context of distant learning.

The adaptability of this foundation allowed the mission to continue and the vision to grow. While delivery rates were required to decline in 2021, the next year brought more needs, new volunteers, new fundraising options and the highest delivery since the launch. In 2022, A Bed 4 Me was able to expand paid staffing positions, begin to serve neighboring Walton county, and expand cash reserves to be better prepared for any unanticipated challenges - organizationally or globally. We were named the 2022 Non-Profit of the Year by the Crestview Chamber of Commerce and the First Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program Community Partner of the Year.

As 2023 came to a close, the mission of A Bed 4 Me continued to impact the community in countless ways. The careful fiscal decisions of the leadership of this organization has kept overhead costs low and allows donations to directly support the sleep needs of the children in the Florida panhandle. Fundraising and volunteer events have developed into opportunities to provide public education on the importance of pediatric sleep health. The delivery of a bed to a child changes the trajectory of that child's health, development, and education.



Bedtime Stories

With thousands of children sleeping in beds of their own, there are thousands of unique stories to match each one.

- ★ A single bed has often meant that one child is able to move into a twin bed allowing a younger sibling into the toddler bed and the youngest sibling into a crib with four people, including the mother, now able to sleep well each night.
- ★ A single bed has meant that the high school football player will be able to stretch out to sleep that night after practice instead of bringing a pillow and blanket to the recliner.
- ★ A single bed may be the final piece for reunification of a parent and a child coming out of the foster system.
- ★ A single bed can allow a child to take that mattress on the floor back to the curb where a parent had found it months before.

"Y'all are amazing"



A common story matches this single mother who shared, in the introductory visit, how tough life had been. After diligent work, she finally secured a new place with a friend - it had a room for her daughters and was walking distance to the bus stop. The girls slept on the floor until delivery day. Upon arrival, the mother said, "they have been so excited asking all day when will the beds get here." Everyone jumped in to help. Once the bed was built and the bedding was on, Mom stood off by the closet in tears. She said "I'm trying not to cry. They finally have a room and a bed, y'all are amazing."




"Mom, don't cry.
I have a bed to sleep
in tonight."

Sometimes it's not just the good nights sleep that a bed provides for a child. Often it impacts the entire family. A relationship restored, a parent taking pride in the fact they were able to provide something so vital to their child in a time of need. The little girl hugged her Mom and said "Mom don't cry, I have a bed to sleep in tonight."

Outlook



The motto of A Bed 4 Me has always been Sleep Tight ... Dream Bright. Every delivery is truly a bed celebration! With passion and a singular focus of getting children into their own beds, we have seen countless times how a child's bed changes the trajectories of that child's health, development, and education. Because of the dream of a few women in 2018 and the continued support of countless individuals, more than 3,000 children had their own trajectories change from the simple gift of a bed. Now you can see for yourself - it is truly more than just a bed







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