



IFMA Community Partner Case Study Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta

In 2009 the Furniture Bank received a grant from the City of Atlanta to purchase a warehouse. The funding needed to be spent in a one year time period. At that point we had rented the same warehouse since 1993 and only knew some basic details about the kind of warehouse we needed. We began to look at warehouses for sale in the Atlanta area. Luckily around the same time a current funder of the Furniture Bank suggested I contact IFMA to see if they could help us in anyway. I happened to call the day before the committee was meeting to pick partner agencies. I must have sounded like I needed some help (which I did) because they let me come to the meeting the next morning and explain our situation.

That day the Furniture Bank became an IFMA Atlanta Community Partner. Right away I could see the benefits of the partnership. IFMA members Andy Hoover and Rick Yarbrough assessed multiple buildings before we decided which building to purchase (a couple of which they told us to run away from, fast – phew!). With their help we were able to purchase a building with a full understanding of the scope of work necessary to repair and renovate the space. In January of 2010 the Furniture Bank purchased its new warehouse at 908 Murphy Avenue SW, Atlanta, 30310.

After the purchase we started to work on raising the necessary funds to renovate and repair the space. The Furniture Bank needed to raise approximately \$300,000 to complete the project. Having IFMA’s help in gathering quotes and forming a realistic budget was crucial to getting funding from large foundations. All prospective funders were happy we had chosen to get some “expert help” from IFMA.

The Furniture Bank relied heavily on our IFMA lead, Lindsey Bradshaw, to help us get quotes for a roof replacement and to pick a general contractor to take care of all the other items.

The Furniture Bank chose to work with Roof Solutions, Inc. to replace its roof:

Roof Mid-Construction



New Roof



The Furniture Bank chose to use IFMA member, Reliant Construction, as its General Contractor. They were wonderful to work with. They understood our limited budget and were extremely patient as we worked to raise the necessary funds.

The Furniture Bank contracted with Reliant Construction to complete the following:

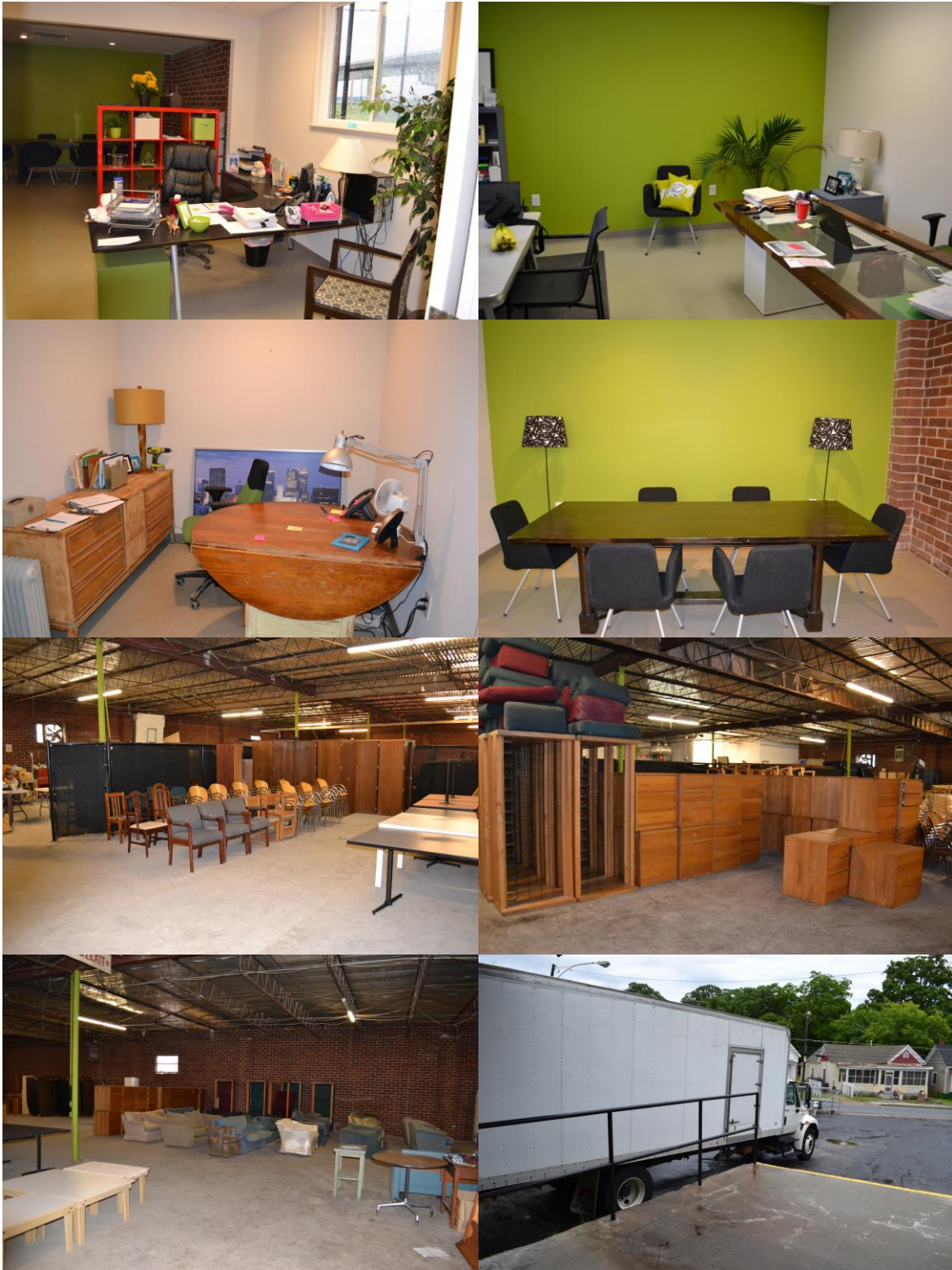
1. Installation of a new HVAC System
2. Installation of a new Water Heater
3. Reconfiguration of the current bathrooms to make one handicap accessible & the other with an entrance off offices
4. Installation of new toilets in each bathroom (the previous fixtures had been stolen)
5. Installation of a new staircase and safety railing on the back dock
6. Installation of front & back gates controlled remotely
7. Replacement of Front and Back lots
8. Installation of new Bay Doors
9. Addition of insulation and fire wall
10. Wall demolition & reconstruction
11. Window Repair
12. Addition of Fence in Warehouse
13. Installation of counter tops in reception area
14. Electrical Repairs
15. Installation of security cage over HVAC system

Looking back I can't believe how stress free the renovation process was. I trusted Reliant 100%, in a large part because of their previous work with IFMA.

Mid-construction Pictures:



The Finished Product:



Purchasing and moving into the warehouse at 908 Murphy is one of the Furniture Bank's biggest accomplishments. Reaching this point would have taken a lot longer and cost much more money without the support of IFMA.

The Furniture Bank's renovated warehouse provides a much better experience for our clients. Each client is welcomed in a clean and professional reception area and receives an individual shopping experience in the warehouse. Also by eliminating a rent payment from our monthly expenses, warehouse ownership greatly increases the Furniture Bank's financial stability and ultimately increases our ability to provide furniture to people in need for years to come.

Furniture Bank Mission:

The Furniture Bank's mission is to recycle used furniture and provide it to individuals and families moving out of homelessness, living with HIV/AIDS, and fleeing domestic violence. By providing free furniture we make sure our clients have beds for sleeping, tables for sharing meals, and couches for relaxing. The Furniture Bank helps over 3,500 people each year. We turn houses into homes.

A Special Thanks to:

Dave Woelber

Andy Hoover & Rick Yarbrough

Matt Patterson: Roof Solutions, Inc.

David Jensen, Tom Merritt, and Kenny Byess: Reliant Construction

Lindsey Bradshaw

Emily Perry