

S H O R E H O M E

Your design wishes can come true

DesignWish offers makeover to deserving homeowner

With the season of giving approaching, a group of local interior design consultants have come together for the second year to provide a deserving individual or family with a complimentary room makeover and are seeking nominations from the community.

The collaborative effort, called DesignWish, aims to transform a room in the home of a deserving individual or family. Lisa Leonardi

of The Room Doctor, Kristen Wall of Wall to Wall Home Concepts, LLC and Patty MacNeil of Madison Furniture Barn and Linden Shores Interiors joined forces last year to perform a room makeover for a Madison family. This year they are adding two more design professionals to their collaboration: Robin Reed of Robin Reed Ltd. and Julie Cousins of Let's Get Organized.

"We are offering a room makeover to an individual that really deserves it. Maybe an unsung hero in our midst, or someone in the middle of a crisis that may not have the time to dedicate to themselves," says Lisa Leonardi.

"Last year, the talented ladies of DesignWish asked if I would like to be involved and donate some furniture and accessories. I thought it was a thoughtful idea; a great way to give back to the community that gives so much to me personally and to my business. Just seeing the excitement of last year's recipient is enough to make me want to give each year," says Eileen Smith from Madison Furniture Barn.

"This was such a gratifying project for all of us last year, as well as the shoreline community

with the area businesses and volunteers that came forward to help us. We made a difference in the life of one family. We made their home more comfortable and functional for their needs. It is truly a gift to be a part of this wonderful effort!" says Patty MacNeil.

"As designers, we understand the positive or negative impact immediate surroundings can have on day-to-day life. Through DesignWish, we hope to create a refuge for someone and strengthen their emotional bond with their home," says Kristen Wall.

DesignWish uses interior redesign techniques to make the transformation. Interior redesign is a decorating philosophy which assumes that all the necessary ingredients for a well-designed space exist in the home already. Westbrook Floor Covering and Madison Furniture Barn of Westbrook will join efforts with the designers by donating items to make the results of the interior redesign even more dramatic.

The support of local businesses makes

DesignWish possible. To help market the cause, a local web designer, Margaret E. Tehan of Margaret's Folly in Guilford, has donated her services to create a website for DesignWish.

To locate the honorees, DesignWish is asking the community for nominations. In 500 words or less, nominators should explain why the nominee is deserving of a room transformation. All submissions will be considered strictly confidential. Nomination letters should be sent by Dec. 18 to info@designwish.org or to PO Box 1084 Madison, CT 06443.

The actual room transformation will take place in January 2009. The DesignWish recipient will be announced on Dec. 24 and listed on the DesignWish website at www.designwish.org.

Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation to help DesignWish reach their goal or to volunteer their time for the project can email info@designwish.org.



DesignWish participants include from left, back row, designers Patty MacNeil, Kristen Wall, Lisa Leonardi and Robin Reed. From left, front row, sponsors Russ Jensen of Westbrook Floor Covering and Eileen Smith of Madison Furniture Barn, Westbrook.