Community Partner Spotlight: Humble Design

Nonprofit Humble Design changes lives and communities by custom designing and fully furnishing home interiors for individuals, families and veterans emerging from homelessness.

In just one day – using furniture and home goods donated by the community – Humble's professional interior design and moving teams transform their clients' empty houses into fully furnished, custom-designed homes based on the clients' unique needs, preferences and dreams. Think HGTV for people who truly need it. This simple but profound act of service provides stability and beauty, restores dignity, and helps people break their cycle of homelessness.

And it works: 98% of Humble Design clients remain housed.

Humble Design was founded in 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. The nonprofit opened an office in San Diego in 2018. Humble Design's motto and promise to the community is "togetherness to end homelessness." The Humble Design team works in partnership with case managers and housing navigators at social services agencies across the region who refer clients for Humble's services – people who have worked hard to secure housing and all the wraparound support services they need to thrive.

Every home is filled with furniture and home goods donated by people who are compelled by Humble's mission and want their beautiful belongings to have a meaningful next chapter in someone else's story of hope.

Humble Design's work is bolstered by a devoted volunteer community which organizes the warehouse, selects personal items for every client and works together with Team Humble each week to transform clients' empty houses into beautiful homes. Many homes are sponsored by generous companies and community groups who roll up their sleeves to furnish an empty space and then help welcome Humble clients home. Volunteering with Humble Design is meaningful for all involved and helps foster empathy, connection, and joy.

Last month, Humble Design transformed the home of Crystal, who successfully transitioned from the Chula Vista Village at Otay shelter into her own place. Last September, Crystal connected with the City's Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.) and the Housing and Homeless Services Department to begin the journey to permanent housing. To learn more about Crystal's inspiring journey, view the City-produced video.

In addition to San Diego, Humble Design serves individuals, families and veterans emerging from homelessness in Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, and Cleveland.

If you would like to donate furniture, volunteer, or sponsor a home for a Humble client, visit humbledesign.org/sandiego or follow @humbledesignsandiego on Instagram or Facebook. The organization's San Diego headquarters are located at 1944 Commercial St.