

ORANGE PULP >

NEW HOMES FOR DISCARDED DÉCOR

It's a common scenario in a place where, for some people, furniture is as much a fashion accessory as it is a necessity: Home improvement leads to the disposal of perfectly good furnishings that simply don't fit a new look.

After watching this happen with some of her own clients, Newport Beach interior designer Beth Phillips decided it was time to find new homes for these discarded items.

Four years ago, Phillips founded Furnishing Hope, a nonprofit organization that collects usable furniture from private donors, manufacturers and showrooms, and redistributes it to those in need, including the families that move into homes built by Habitat for Humanity Orange County.

It all began with a single donation from one of Phillips' clients, who moved from a traditional Anaheim Hills home to an ultra-modern oceanfront spread in Corona del Mar, shedding their old furniture in the process. "We ended up furnishing six homes from Habitat for Humanity in Costa Mesa with that furniture and other things we picked up," says Phillips.

Since then, Furnishing Hope has fully outfitted 24 Habitat homes in Orange County. This year, they also began working with Orangewood Children's Foundation's Rising Tide, a transitional housing program for emancipated foster children; and The Regional Center of Orange County, which provides housing assistance and other services to people with developmental disabilities.

But Furnishing Hope does more than just move furniture around. Before every project, one of Furnishing Hope's professional interior designers meets with the recipient to choose a color scheme and come up with a design plan for the space. "We try to fill their needs as best we can with what we have available," says Phillips. Like the time a designer created a princess-themed bedroom for a little girl. Hanging in the corner was a brand-new dress fit for, well, a princess. "The little girl just squealed, ran to the dress and put it on," says Phillips. "It was so precious."

Furnishing Hope is always looking for usable furnishings and monetary donations. For more information, call (949) 644-9106. -STEVE IRSAY

GIVING BACK



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Beth Phillips helps furnish the homes of those in need