

Homefeathers Project Number 1 - Kingsway Blessing Centre

On Sept. 4, 2014, while sitting in a shop with a client discussing her tea business and the interior design of her industrial space, my client mentioned that she wanted to go to Mr. Greenjeans to buy lighting. Now everyone who has lived in Toronto for the past 35 years knows that Mr. Greenjeans is a family restaurant and is an icon in the Toronto Eaton's Centre. Buying lighting there just didn't make sense! I was then shocked to hear that after 35 years serving jumbo meals and milkshakes, this Toronto landmark restaurant had closed and was selling its furniture, lighting and contents.

My interior design business, Design Details believes in the philosophy of Sustainable Interior Design and promotes reusing items. My client also wanted to reuse items and incorporate them into her space. As Mr. Greenjeans furniture was only available for less than 24 hours, we jumped in my van and headed to downtown Toronto. Upon arriving at Mr. Greenjeans, we learned that there was much more furniture available and it all had to be gone by the next day. Staff graciously offered to donate furniture and items to me for CCAA's Homefeathers Program.

I had just partnered with the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness (CCAA) and helped form the **Homefeathers** program, "Helping Others to Feather a New Nest". Homefeathers endeavours to help women and children who have had to flee abusive circumstances, by assisting them in acquiring some of the basic comforts and home furnishings, in order to help them "feather a new nest".

However, after supplying The Canadian Centre for Abusive Awareness with donated items from a local contents sale this summer, the CEO of C.C.A.A. told me that the warehouse was bursting with clothing

After all, that is why I approached Ellen Campbell at a Women's Biz Conference...

for their Delivering Hope program and, until we were able to obtain more warehouse space, I could not bring or accept any more contents - unless it was exceptional to the norm. So, I called Ellen late Thursday afternoon and told her what Mr. Greenjeans was offering me. Ellen quickly contacted Kingsway Blessing Centre in Hamilton as it needed furniture. A truck and crew was arranged to meet me there on the Friday morning. A full truck of chairs, tables and

cases of kitchen supplies and dishes was loaded up and taken back to this food shelter in Hamilton. The truckload that went to the Kingsway Blessing Centre in Hamilton transformed their location with over 100 comfortable upholstered chairs, green wooden chairs, stainless steel modern tables and tons of kitchen supplies.

From Mr. Greenjeans, I was given chandeliers, drapes, silk flowers, chairs, etc., for future projects for



Lorelie Noble
inside the former Mr.
Greenjeans location.

Homefeathers. As the CCAA van was unavailable, I made 2 trips that day back and forth from Holland Landing to Toronto with my van bursting. The last trip was full of chandeliers clanking, as I hydroplaned up the Hw. 404 in a severe electrical storm but safely made it home with wonderful treasures to help clients in the Homefeathers Program. In the future, the Homefeathers program will use the rest of the furniture to help clients referred through CCAA.

I am thrilled to have been the person that connected surplus materials from a closing restaurant to a food shelter with the Homefeathers program that will help women who have had to flee from abusive situations and start over again. After all, that is why I approached Ellen Campbell at a Women's Biz Conference in Toronto this spring with my idea of

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connecting the surplus in society and particularly in the design world with a need to help others.

It is ironic to know that back in 1986, while eating in Mr. Greenjeans and beginning Interior Design School at Ryerson, that 29 years later, I would be able to connect a closing restaurant I loved to help so many others in need.

If you know or hear of any surplus furniture and home furnishings and decorating items including lamps, pillows, picture frames, tugs, baskets, chairs, headboards, side tables, etc., that would help our clients, please contact Denise Spector at CCAA.

We especially need financial sponsors so that we can expand the Homefeathers Program into a full time Program. Click here for Sponsorship Opportunities.

From all those that benefitted from this amazing connection of donations, we sincerely want to thank Mr. Greenjeans for its generosity in helping to transform environments such as the food shelter in Hamilton and the Homefeathers program which will aid so many people in need in the future as they need to "Feather a New Nest". ❖

Lorelie Noble

Designer and Facilitator for Homefeathers Program



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