

Home Stylist Lifts Spirits

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go into the room," she said. As part of the one-day makeover, Cook starts by correcting innocent decorator mistakes. She immediately runs a checklist in her head of things she hopes to improve.

Her primary goal that she addresses through an initial consultation, is addressing the wants and needs of clients. She also aims to make sure her customers are highly involved in the process. She completes any minor work right away. From there she develops a detailed re-design plan that covers everything from ceiling to floor.

"The goal is to save time and money and achieve an inviting space," said Cook.

She receives a sense of accomplishment comes from the feedback of satisfied customers. "I enjoy what I do, and I think that comes through in my work. If I can leave the client feeling good about the space I have created, then I have done my job," she said.

She has received testimony from a number of satisfied customers. One client in Somerdale, recently sold her home and down-sized to an over 55 community, Cook explained. "I wanted to make her house a home," she said.

Cook is involved in several local upcoming projects in South Jersey. Through networking and her connection to the Camden County Chamber of Commerce, she plans to work on an office redesign contest with Miles Technology. The contest will be unveiled this fall.

Headquartered in Moorestown, NJ, Miles Technologies' Information Technology and Computer Consulting division provides installation and support of networks, servers, and workstations. They also provide on-site and remote support, and custom build servers and workstations to any specifications.

"I strongly believe in giving back to the community that has supported me," she said.

It was this support and her involvement in the Interior Refiners Network, (IRN), that lead her to her next project. As a member of the IRN, an international organization of

one-day decorators, she began planning for a one-day makeover at The Ronald McDonald House in Camden.



Sandra Cook
Designer with Home Stylist

In conjunction with National Home Therapy Month, the group works with needy families and charity organizations across the country. Their goal is to demonstrate that everyone deserves a comfortable, functional and beautiful space.

As a member of the organization, Cook will take place in the Adopt a Room program at Ronald McDonald House (RMH). Through the planning process she works with directors to create a theme conducive to the people that will be utilizing it.

In this case, she explained, extended family of one of the patients are allowed to use the room to stay for a minimal fee. The large room accommodates four individuals. She will use the furniture in the room and will enhance it by painting, adding window treatments, bed ensembles and wall art. She hopes to create a sitting/study area for visitors.

Cook will begin the project in Septembers. She anticipates it will take two to four days to complete.

As part of an Old Girls Network, a women's business networking group, she had been a long-time supporter of RMH. She chooses RMH for this reason and because she felt it was a "worthwhile group." She said, "I thought this project would have the most impact," she said.

As a member of the IRN she has participated in a number of pro bono seminars on decorating, offering tips based on any budget. In conjunction with National Home Therapy Month in September, she will be donating five percent of her profits to Ronald McDonald House.

Through her projects in the community, Cook will continue to lift the spirits of others through her design.