



SAVVY GIVING BY DESIGN

ROOM GUIDELINES & SELECTIONS

How we select a Child/Recipient

Identify a Liaison

Identify a liaison who can connect you and potential recipients. We have a Board member who is also the mother of our first recipient play this role for us. Having a Liaison is not a requirement. However it is very helpful for several reasons.

First, a liaison's input can help the design team navigate sensitive issues related to a child who is ill and/or immunocompromised. Second, the liaison can share his/her personal experience with families who are new to our process. Your Liaison can share experiences from someone who has actually been in their shoes. The liaison may also have contacts through the local hospitals and community groups that may help you identify future recipients.

Nomination

Have your Liaison, someone from the family you are looking to help, or a family friend, complete a nomination form. Nomination forms are specific to each chapter and you will be provided with a specific URL for your chapter's nomination form. Once submitted, the form will send to the chapter leader.

Prioritization

Generally we like to consider several factors in prioritizing our selections.

a. How long have they been in treatment? Generally, we tend to focus children at the front-end of their treatment protocol. Although any experience with a life-threatening disease has lasting traumatic effects, we recommend focusing your limited resources on the families who will receive the largest impact over the course of their treatment.

b. Are there mobility issues? It may be best to refer families with ADA requirements (e.g. ramps, wheelchair access, and specialty beds) to charities like Make A Wish who are better-suited to meet these specific needs.

c. Is the child in your geographic area? Aiming to stay within an hour of your home base will allow you to maximize contributions from your critical team of contractors and volunteers so that the installation can move quickly, minimizing the inconvenience to the family.



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One & Done

When coming into an immuno-compromised home, we do our best to keep the space clean by wiping down all hard surfaces and installing all furnishings and accessories in one day for the "reveal". There are many advantages to keeping most of the design a secret until the day of the reveal. Of course, one is the element of surprise! It allows the designer to substitute out items that may have arrived damaged, back ordered, or simply not a good fit, without creating any feelings of disappointment. It is wise to designate a volunteer "runner" to do last minute errands on the day-of for batteries, extension cords, or any number of other items that may be needed on install day. This will allow the team to start the project and finish the final touches without needing to come back. Once the reveal is done, we should not have to return to disrupt the family again.

Reveal Day

We recommend having a volunteer room photographer in the space to capture the "first look" photos as well as a videographer to video the reveal. This valuable footage can be pieced together into a highlight reel after the fact. We highly recommend letting the family as well as the child know who will be in the room.

We also recommend asking the photographer try hard to reduce the flash noise and to not be too "paparazzi" like with the photos. Otherwise the photography may distract from the room and make the family uncomfortable. There is a fine line and you don't NEED every photo. Balancing out what is right for the family as well with documenting the moment for both them and your team is of utmost importance. Just prior to the family's arrival home for the reveal we recommend having the photographer come and take the photos of the "afters," so that the photography is done with minimal disruption to the family's experience.

Establish Rapport

This really is about creating a trusting relationship with each family and child. The more you can do to establish this early on, the better the experience will be for all involved.