all detroit birthdays!
Kari Nies  
4-27
Catherine LaLone  
5-1
MaryEllen Abraham  
5-4

This mom had a rough go of it, but after years of struggling, and working hard, she was able to find safety and get the emotional and mental help she needed. She is standing on her own and providing a home for her kids. Her happiness for them, and their happiness for her are all the good feels we love to see. This Mother’s Day will be especially happy for this sweet family. Click the picture to watch their heartwarming reveal.

fairly new bees
Colleen Greene  
Designer  
Detroit

Nina Kitapan  
Designer  
San Diego

Bella Irons  
They/Them  
Development Manager  
Seattle

Jenny Pham  
Designer  
San Diego
With spring comes renewal, so it feels right to talk about our upcoming mission refresh efforts in this Hive edition. Simon Sinek’s Start with Why will be our guide.

Most organizations start with what — the services they provide. Some will then follow with how — the mechanics and values used to deliver those services. Few organizations can clearly articulate why — our collective purpose that motivates us daily. But, does it matter? Let’s look at an example we all know well, Apple, and see.

If Apple started with what, they would say “We make great computers. They are designed beautifully and in a user-friendly intuitive way. Wanna buy one?”

Instead, they say “We believe in breaking the status quo in all we do. We break the status quo by making our products beautifully designed and user-friendly. We just happen to make computers. Wanna buy one?”

Articulating our why becomes the guiding principle that inspires and attracts others, leading to more meaningful connections, innovative thinking, and long-term success. We will uncover our collective why through a story-based process, which will be the central focus of the July national offsite.

Stay tuned to the next Hive for the output of this work.

In this episode of Season 2 of “Live Local, Give Local: San Diego”, listeners learn about the life-changing, impactful, and uplifting work of Humble Design, led by their Founder & CEO, Treger Strasberg. A great episode on the power of turning a house into a home!! Together, we end homelessness - one bed, one home, one human at a time.

In her video, Treger references the UCSD Data Set, the recent Harvard Case Study Brief, a national television appearance coming soon, and our 2nd National Conference in Chicago this July.
former designer Lisa shares a way to decoratively fill a large wall space or create the illusion of a headboard.

One of the things about designing out of a Humble warehouse is that you don’t know what will be there from week to week. Our constantly rotating inventory of items requires creativity and inventiveness to see possibilities. There are times we don’t have headboards, or there are times we have huge expanses of wall, with no large pieces that fit the client’s color scheme.

One thing we almost always have is fabric, whether in the form of donated upholstery fabric, tablecloths, bedsheets, duvet covers or curtains. We have repurposed these a number of ways over the years.

We did not have a headboard for our mom’s room, but after hearing that her favorite color was purple, and finding a large wood frame with some outdated fabric on it, we found the perfect duvet cover we could repurpose on the wooden frame to use as her headboard.

After removing the original fabric, place your fabric face down, laying your frame on it, keeping an eye on where the pattern is, and centering it in an attractive way. Using a staple gun, place one staple in the center of each side, pulling it slightly taut. If you have a finished edge, start stapling with that side, then on the opposite side, roll the fabric under to create an edge, pulling it taut as you staple. Repeat on the other sides and then hang for impact in the client’s space.
the bees knees

here is the wackiest donation that brought us joy

We often get chickens and rooster figurines and glancing through any of our kitchen “after” pictures, you’re sure to see a number of them posing on tops of counters and refrigerators. We love to “put a bird on it” while bringing some fun and whimsy to our client’s spaces. However, a LAMP with rooster feathers on the shade takes this concept to a whole new level, leaving us speechless AND oddly enough, filled with joy.

worker bee buzz

volunteer of the month

“I love volunteering with Humble Design. “The designers are dedicated to treating each other and every client with respect and dignity, no matter their circumstances.

I have met like-minded people who have become friends. The mission and values of Humble Design are shared by all who work and volunteer!”

Maureen Garris
Humble Design
Cleveland

bee booked-monthly reads

national’s book club reads

This is “a myth retold” - a story that haunted Lewis as a Classics student at Oxford, struggling to understand why the characters made such illogical choices. He reimagines it as an inside look at envy, loss, betrayal, guilt, blame, and grief.

This NYT bestselling book is a heartfelt guide to the art of knowing another person. One of our primary goals at Humble Design is to truly SEE our clients and connect with them through empathy, design, and love.