We’re buzzing with excitement to introduce our brand new monthly newsletter: the Humble Hive! The weekly Humble Happenings emails will be no more as we transition to a once monthly communication celebrating the humbleverse to share internally and to cross pollinate with everyone interested in Humble Design.

We want to focus on staying connected internally and externally, keeping each other in the loop, while embodying our five core values of being kind, one, scrappy, you, and humble. So, grab a cup of coffee or tea, or an energy drink, settle in, and let’s dive into the latest news, updates, and stories. Together, we’re creating homes filled with warmth and hope and making the communities we live in stronger and kinder.

Adam, a former Army serviceman who served in Iraq, faced the additional challenge of homelessness upon returning to civilian life. For six months he lived in his car, struggling to make ends meet. He also spent time in temporary accommodations, none of which felt like home. Eventually, Adam connected with PATH San Diego, marking the beginning of his journey to finding a permanent home. What a joy it was to be able to serve this man and surprise him with a beautifully decorated space to feel home. Click the picture above to watch his home reveal.

**March Days**

**Happy Birthday!**
Lisa Crawford 3-14
Josh Weaver 3-18
Ernesto Cervantes 3-22
Amanda Copp 3-30

**Sweet as Honey**

**Adam’s Mission Moment**
Welcome to the Hive: a monthly newsletter from Humble Design that seeks to understand and share what’s important to our community and to deliver our mission with as much impact as possible. In January, I began my term as trustee chair with the goal of putting systems in place and codifying our norms to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Wow, that does not sound inspiring nor inviting! Yet, it is what we need most now as we move our humble organization past start-up mode and become a notable force in ending homelessness.

To that end, the board’s focus areas for 2024 include:

- Chartering national committees, including Finance, Governance, Development, and Marketing & Comms
- Creating clear action plans by committee that directly flow from our strategic plan
- Updating our organizational bylaws
- Establishing a personnel review process and putting succession planning in place
- Creating an organizational health “dashboard” to real-time track key performance metrics
- Increasing our connectivity as a community by putting intention into when/how we communicate

Each month, this space will focus on one aspect of our action plan with the goal of providing clarity and inspiring conversation for all of us working in the Humble Hive.

We celebrated Black History Month in February. We were excited to celebrate the vast contributions of Black Americans to our country and recognize that our staff, volunteers, and clients, who are the soul of Humble Design, come from rich and diverse backgrounds. This is not only a huge asset to the company, but it is what makes us unique among all nonprofits. While we still grapple with injustice, our collective is dedicated to exploring ways we can be more inclusive, understanding, and uplifting.

Join us in celebrating the vibrant culture, resilience, and indomitable spirit that continue to shape our world. Together, we can build a future that embraces equality and opportunity for all.

* pollination

**articles, podcasts, songs, poems, that relate to the people we serve, or the topic of homelessness**

The FAQ page is now live on our website!

- Home Depot Serving Humble SAN video
- Colorful Conversations Podcast with Treger Nov. 2023

Our favorite song this month “Fast Car”
the hive mind hacks

designer Jen from cleveland shares this humble hack to hang curtains!

For our clients, curtains do more than make a space feel cohesive, cozy, etc...they provide privacy and a sense of safety. I often struggle with them, though. Either I cannot find the appropriate hardware (or we don't have it), or hanging curtains takes too long. Tension rods are a good solution, but we don't always have them available. Plus, they often can only support the weight of sheers. Here's how we've been hanging curtains (especially heavier panels) lately in Cleveland.

All that is required is any material that can be formed into a loop and some simple fasteners. These examples are using two old belts fastened with upholstery tacks.

Get fancy with fun loops as part of your overall design or just keep it simple. Our team keeps a little kit that we take with us on decos with some neutral pieces of material and fasteners if needed. It’s so adaptable!

Super easy, and no drilling required! Curtain rods with heavier panels can easily be supported with a third loop in the middle and/or sturdier fasteners like these inexpensive roofing nails. Shout out to CLE designer, Mindy, for discovering these extremely sturdy and super inexpensive fasteners. We use them to hang just about everything these days. They support heavier weights, are so much easier to use than screws, and super economical (around 250 or so nails for under $5!).
**worker bee buzz**

**volunteer of the month-info**

“Humble Design is about teamwork. It’s about working with great, passionate, compassionate people that want to create homes for families and individuals to thrive.

Whether its organizing in the warehouse or decorating a home—there is something, always something special to contribute.”

Beth Monicatti Blank
Humble Design
Detroit Volunteer

**the bees knees**

**here are the wackiest donations that brought us joy**

Is this glass fish in pain? Is it trying to tell us something? Is there a client that will request a cross-eyed aquatic theme? All good questions.

**bee booked-monthly read**

**book club book**

This historical fiction novel gives us an inside look at the struggles for women and racial equality as lived during the Gilded Age in NYC. Highly recommend adding this to your “to read” list!

[Book cover image for *The Personal Librarian*]

Are you feeling like the world is headed in the wrong direction and that people aren’t inherently good? Here’s some scientific proof that you need to restore your faith in humankind.

[Book cover image for *Humankind*]