Lacressia is a resilient mother of four who has navigated a very challenging year. She lost her job due to car troubles and subsequently got evicted. She persevered, and is now juggling two jobs to provide stability for her family.

Lacressia and her oldest son, DQ were home for the reveal. He said, “MOM!! A BED!! I don’t have to sleep on the floor anymore!!” He was so excited he filmed the reveal for his three younger siblings and then sent the video to their Detroit Designers, Amy and Mary Ellen. It is PURE JOY and we wanted to share it with you~Thank you for supporting us and giving us the opportunity to help more people like Lacressia and her children. Click the picture to watch.

“I’m an interior designer and have been doing Deco days since Humble first started in Seattle. It’s inspiring for me to do what I do for a living, for people that really need the help and the inspiration to start over. I love the mission of Humble Design and I’m really excited to be doing this again with my mom.”

Heather and her mom, Laura
Humble Design Seattle
On June 10th, many from the Humble community had the privilege of learning about two stellar pieces of work that dovetail nicely: First, UCSD did an intensive study looking at the real-world impact of Humble Design’s services on the lives of our alums. Second, Harvard generated an extensive set of ideas on how we might extend our revenue base. The output was robust on both fronts, but I would like to focus on one learning from the UCSD study that resounded with my personal experience growing up. Specifically, how children in Humble homes now feel confident to have friends over. Wow, what a simple and profound change in a child’s life. As a kid, I often lived in makeshift spaces, which left me too embarrassed to have friends over. It wasn’t until seeing this study, that I even realized what an impact that had on my confidence and sense of community when I was young. We all know the importance of friendships in mental health and wellbeing, and what better way to cultivate friendships than sharing your space, toys, stories.

While the direct impact of Humble Design is something we can all readily tout, it was delightful to unpack so many more benefits that ripple from the security of having a furnished home. So, here’s to the small things that are really such big things — cooking more often, striving for the next level of a job, inviting a friend to a sleepover, and many more.

This month I had the unbelievable experience of flying to New York City (twice!) to sit on the couch with Kelly Clarkson and flew to Chicago to work together with the Humble team to furnish and decorate a home for a single mom and her son. We worked with Wayfair to secure the large items that we placed, and Humble filled in the rest. It was definitely a labor of love, and the Chicago team worked above and beyond to make this happen. I am so grateful to them. The NBC crew and the Wayfair team were so impressed and touched by what we do every week. It was a joy to watch them learn about our mission.

A few days after I got home I reached out to Maya, to see how things were going. This is what she said. "I was crying so hard in my bed last night. I just felt so loved. Everywhere I look, every time I turn my head, I see something that makes me feel loved. Something that helps me go on. It's like you were reaching into my dreams and pulled out the things I didn't even know I wanted." Watch the reveal HERE.

When I was overwhelmed and exhausted this lovely mom brought me back to the reason we do what we do. Suddenly I had the energy to face an overwhelming inbox. That’s the power of our connections.
the hive mind hacks — lamps

our designers adapt what we have to fit the personalized design concept for their client.

We get LOTS of donations that are a bit dated, or lacking in a design element that would make them fit into the style the designers are envisioning. Lamps can be tricky—especially when you’d like some matching lamps to tie a room together. Here are two examples of how to transform lampshades or bases with a little creativity, some imagination, some paint, and handy dandy glue gun.

The painted lamp bases were too busy and didn’t match the style we were going for. BUT we liked the gold accent bands. Using some painter’s tape to mask off and protect areas, the designer painted the bases in several shades of teal to give a slight ombre effect and was able to customize the lamps to fit in perfectly with the color scheme they had created for the client.

Sometimes we have the opposite problem, and there isn’t enough style in the lamps we’d like to use and we enjoy having lamps that mirror each other -- it adds visual continuity to what is often quite eclectic.

These glass lamp bases were a bit devoid of style and the client has said for colors that they wanted “neutrals, a beachy sand vibe, with calming elements.” These lamps were nice, but the lamp shades were too modern of a vibe for what we were creating for her space. We had some burlap rolls donated (they sell them at craft and fabric stores) and decided to cover the lamp shades, using a hot glue gun to finish the edges with three rows of twine. Adding some blue plates, with white sand and a few sea shells-- took it to a whole different level. She LOVED them!
Our Detroit location had a donation that had Operations Manager, Leslie, reaching out to a local Trash or Treasure appraiser. A silver-etched bowling pin, but (wait for it) also a cigarette holder and a music box! Shaped like a bowling pin, the piece includes intricate exterior carving and opens to reveal an interior with small holes designed to hold cigarettes. The appraiser called the piece “such an oddity that is both beautiful and unusual, dating to around the 1920s” valuing it between $300-$500.

Two sisters learn about their mother’s past in war-torn Leningrad, uncovering a secret that challenges their understanding of their family and themselves.

We often encounter generational trauma when getting to know our clients. We hope to broaden our understanding of how this impacts those we serve AND potentially this will also help us cool off from the summer heat.