



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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***INSPIRING SURVIVAL***

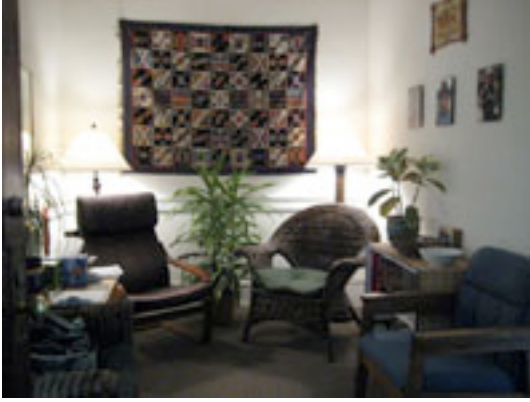
**San Francisco, Calif. June 16, 2008** – Philanthropy by Design proudly announces its latest contribution in aiding Survivors International and their important efforts. Survivors International is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing essential psychological and medical services to survivors of torture who have fled from around the world to the San Francisco Bay Area. SI aims to help survivors put the pieces back together by providing the support they need to re-establish healthy and productive lives after their experiences of torture.

PBD board member Julie Drechsel and lead volunteer Shannon Kaye, the feature designer and host of DIY Network's new television show *Fresh Coat*, coordinated the donation of free-standing lamps (provided by Brook Furniture Rental), low VOC Auara paints (from Gray's Paints, Burlingame) and the services of Tasha Welch, Provasi who helped paint and Dave Lewis, Renovation Remodelers who helped repair and paint. A small table was provided via Shannon's local Freecycle network ([www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)). Here is her perspective on the project:

*"Working with Morgan at Survivors International was an enjoyable experience from start to finish. The entire staff was patient and thoughtful, and the volunteers I ran across were more than generous. As a decorative painter I know the difference a little color can make. I was completely moved by the dedication of the Survivors International staff and the plight as well as courage of their clients and as I rolled the paint on the waiting room walls I couldn't help but picture their faces as they entered this space meant to soothe and honor them. I felt honored, myself. Inspired by the lilac prints on the wall, I chose soft taupe colors for the walls to create a sense of serenity and also complement the plants and other green accents in the room. I organized the furniture to create small conversation areas as well as areas providing solitude. I pulled the black rug from another room to make the space feel a little more like home and organized the lighting to create quiet ambiance in every corner".*

Morgan Kerchner, Administrative Coordinator at Survivors International gratefully acknowledged the transformation: *"Shannon, you and the volunteers did an amazing job working with the small space. It was like walking into a different office! The colors are soothing and the paint job is great. The space feels cleaner and less cluttered and the black table and rug fit nicely. Thank you so much for your hard work, Shannon. The room looks beautiful".*

**Philanthropy by Design** has been improving the quality of people's lives serving over 600 agencies and diverting more than one million pounds of interior products from landfills for 20 years. Since its origination as the philanthropy committee of the Hospitality Industry Association (HIA) in 1987, PBD has been using recycled furnishings and mobilizing the talents of the design community to partner in creating inspiring interior environments for not-for-profit organizations. Other PBD projects include Samaritan House Safe Harbor, a 90-bed emergency homeless shelter in San Mateo County and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of San Francisco, a shelter protecting the poor, homeless, victims of substance abuse and domestic violence. The St. Vincent de Paul project is collaboration with IIDA at the direct request of Mayor Gavin Newsom. For more information, please visit [www.pbd.org](http://www.pbd.org).



BEFORE



AFTER