

The Teen Project Charity Design Project: Designers That Care

by Christine Peake

Owner & Founder The Teen Project, Lauri Burns and Project Manager & Designer Turquoise/Vanessa De Vargas are proud to announce a very special project directed to help homeless teens in Venice, California on February 12th.

This month 8 kind hearted interior designers will join forces under one roof to decorate The Teen



ruary 13, 2012.

Lead designer, Vanessa De Vargas, who is proving herself to be one of the most sought out designers in California has brought an amazing team of designers who have all reached out to their networks to help decorate this pro-bono project. From the wonderful generosity of the following stores and companies we have received some incredible donations.

Participating Interior Designers:

Allan Dellatorre / Bathroom, Charmean Neithart / Kitchen, Kelly Edwards / Computer Area, Marilynn Taylor / Bathroom, Mollie Ranize / Therapy Office, Typhanie Peterson / Reception, Vanessa De Vargas / Living Room, Winston Carney / Mezzanine

Project Contributors and Donations: Sidney Holland, The Anne and Charles Johnson Foundation & The Harry J. Brown Foundation. Lowe's, Flor, CB2, Blu Dot, Ferm Living Wallpaper, EKLA Home, Cliff Spencer, Mid Century LA, Henry Road, Peggy Wong, Madison and Grow Wallpaper, Advanced Interior Designs, Algami Glass, Charlton Cabinets, MD Appliances, Tap n

Tile, Pendleton Construction, George's Plumbing, Green Planet Building, Lucy Snowe Photography, Sam Song, Dan Lee, Electrical Contractor, Astek Wall-covering, A Plant Affair, CYRCLE., eb design and B & J Specialist

About The Teen Project The Teen Project is a volunteer centric organization serving youth exiting foster care at age 18 to homelessness and at risk youth. They have one full time employee paid by a direct grant and over 80 committed & dedicated volunteers. The volunteer team consists of business owners, executives, system kids, caring parents and a community that cares. The Teen Project picks up where the laws fall short; giving these kids a chance at life. The Teen Project programs consist of sober college hous-

ing, street outreach, a national text home program, nationwide stakeholder leadership and an online national database. 25,000 kids age out of foster care every year in the US, 4,000 in California. 65% walk out straight to homelessness. Foster kids are 2% of our population, but 100% of our future.

Project P.A.D. Drop in Center located in Venice Beach. The space will be transformed into a resource center for homeless teens. The Teen Project's goal is to get these teens back to safe homes or transitional housing and get them back on our their feet. Venice Beach is home to hundreds of throw away and runaway youth and The Teen Project is driven to make a difference. While many social services organizations keep homeless kids in Venice by providing food and services for them there, The Teen Project will take it one step further and finishing the job by restoring their lives. The event consists of a community ribbon cutting on February 10, 2012 and the facility will be open to the teens Feb-

ing, street outreach, a national text home program, nationwide stakeholder leadership and an online national database. 25,000 kids age out of foster care every year in the US, 4,000 in California. 65% walk out straight to homelessness. Foster kids are 2% of our population, but 100% of our future.

About Lauri Burns: Lauri Burns is the Founder and serves on our Executive Board. Lauri grew up in the Juvenile Dependency System where she was a probation youth and ward of the court. Lauri was homeless after emancipation and worked the street to survive. At the age of 23, Lauri turned her life around and was determined to spend the rest of her life dedicated to the kids that followed her. Lauri has been taking in "At Risk Youth" for 20 years and has been serving as a foster mother to troubled teens for over 13 years. Lauri has mothered 40 at risk teens to date. Lauri owns a computer-consulting firm and is a computer network engineer. She has been consulting for a Fortune 100 defense company for the past 11 years. Lauri is the Author of *Punished for Purpose* and donates 75% of her book proceeds to The Teen Project. She is a sought after inspirational speaker and owns her own publishing company where she plans to publish inspirational stories written by other foster youth. Lauri is instrumental in our day-to-day operations and the lives of our youth. Even today, many years later, Lauri has 4 teens living in her personal home. www.TheteenProject.com <<http://www.TheteenProject.com>>

About Vanessa De Vargas: Turquoise is an Interior Design and consulting firm located in Venice Beach



**Above: Lauri Burns/Founder of The Teen Project
Left: Vanessa De Vargas**

that revamps and sells vintage furniture. Turquoise is the first firm to offer "E-Decorating" (virtual decorating) to clients around the world. Vanessa De Vargas has been published in over 200 design related magazines and blogs and is the leader for Designer Networking Group Events and host of LA's High End Interior Designer Tag Sales. The Teen Project will be Vanessa's third charity design related project she has project managed and decorated. www.Turquoise-la.com For more information: Contact Lauri Burns lauri@theteenproject.com or visit The Teen Project Venice Blog <http://theteenprojectvenice.blogspot.com> for sneak peeks, before images and our list of designers and donators.

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