

# Items

## Design Cartel transforms Long Island's only Runaway Teen Shelter

Talented designers, space planners, artists and craftspeople have donated time, talent and furnishings to create a serene and therapeutic haven for runaway youth at Long Island's only shelter for runaway teens. The shelter, known as Nassau Haven, is one of Family & Children's Association's 35 community-based programs which assist approximately 25,000 Long Islanders in need.

The Design Cartel, brainchild of Therese Pomerenk of Therese Interior Design & Decoration, is an informal trade association made up of designers and artisans who meet to exchange ideas, share resources and provide mutual support. The project transformed 600 square feet of a dismal, institutional space into a warm, welcoming environment for the over 400 young people who are forced to seek shelter from abuse or other insurmountable challenges. According to founder Therese Pomerenk, "We believe that the right living environment can soothe, nurture and provide hope."

Design Cartel members who participated in the program include Therese Pomerenk, Therese Interior Design & Decoration; Adrienne Kessel, Adrienne Kessel Interior Design; Barbara R. Seppala, Barbara Rose; Gary Heffers, Pratt & Lambert Paints; Maria DiMonti, DiMonti's Decorative Finishes; Jean Fuoco, Window Dressings by Jean; Victoria Collett, The Clearinghouse Exchange and Gail Gotlieb, GBG



*The re-designed lounge, living room and dining room*

Interior Designs. Donations for the project were made by local homeowners, businesses and craftspeople including Kravet Fabrics, AC Electrical Supplies in Smithtown, Pratt & Lambert Paints, nature photographer Thomas D. Mangelsen, Ikebana floral designer Paula Tam, The Container Store and space planner Jackie Mastropolo of Spaces Organizing Solutions. ■

