NARI of Central Ohio selected to remodel the second floor of Huckleberry House as our 2022 Community Service Project.

Huckleberry House is a 24/7 crisis shelter offering a temporary safe place to stay for teens ages 12 to 17. “Huck House” offers three hot meals a day, a warm bed, and access to individual and family counselors. The compassionate staff are ready and willing to listen and help, no matter the circumstance. On average, 500+ youth pass through the Columbus, Ohio shelter every year. Money that comes to Huck House goes to programs and staffing. Updating the house is not a priority.

NARICO became aware of the need for an update at Huck House when a staffer working on a remodel at her own home paid a visit to Bath Works where she met Robin Welsh, showroom manager and Community Service Chairperson. A tour of the second floor was arranged and the need was quite evident. Each room had a different type of flooring, frayed carpet, peeling laminate, and areas worn to the subfloor. The bedrooms had industrial bunk beds and desperately needed to be painted. The bathrooms were completely disorganized and had no storage.

The initial plan was to install new flooring throughout, paint all rooms, and build storage bins for the bathrooms. As we learned more about the great services provided by Huck House we decided we could do more. A decision was made to revamp the entire second floor. Walls were moved and hall closets were opened to create a new gathering space.
Todd Schmidt, MCR, UDCP from NJW Renovations Unlimited stepped up as Project Manager. He and his co-worker Rochelle Stallings, did a fantastic job scheduling 40+ volunteers. NARI members contributed $92,000 in labor and materials for the job. From planning to completion the project took 16 months, the actual construction took two months. In addition to removing walls to create more space, new flooring, and freshly painted walls, wiring was replaced and plumbing was rerouted.

NARI volunteers were able to transform the space from cold and sterile into a warm and inviting home-like atmosphere. The gratitude of the staff is heartwarming and our Chapter is humbled and proud to help this wonderful organization.
“Pink Room” Before

Overflow Girls Room

Former Pink Room

New Lounge
On behalf of the City of Columbus, I am pleased to honor and recognize NARI of Central Ohio, the local chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, on the occasion of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the restoration of the 2nd floor of Huckleberry House. We acknowledge and celebrate the positive impact of strong community partnerships and the spirit of service that drive our collective efforts to support at-risk and homeless youth in Central Ohio.

Andrew J. Ginther  
Mayor
Huckleberry House for teens renovations
Glamour Shots

Thank you for your consideration
Thank you to everyone who made this renovation possible.