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I had a dream one night. I dreamt of a house in which I knew every nook and cranny. The walls were painted my favorite shade of blue. It smelled happy, like vanilla and fresh-baked bread. And it was filled with strangers. People that I had seen before but couldn't quite place. They were happy and comfortable, each the best version of themselves. Then I realized that what I was seeing was not a house at all, but a legacy, a collage of all the people I hoped would remember me. All those strangers were people I had seen on the streets with a cardboard sign, people I had talked with, people I had helped and inspired. I dreamt of a house that has become the basis of my dreams for the future.

I often think about what a home looks like. How do I, a stranger, come into another's life and find the memories, the preferences, the beauty of an individual mind, and bring it to life inside their house? Is a home found through favorite colors and personal style? Is it built through the memories made there? My passion is to make spaces beautiful for a purpose. For one person, that reason may be healing and stability, for another, beauty and belonging. Reasons can change. Purpose does not. I see so much need in the world; it is so contrasted from my own comfortable life. I want to share the blessings I have experienced and step out of my comfort zone into a larger world. For these reasons, my dream is to work for or create a nonprofit that gives houses to the homeless, purpose to the hopeless, and healing to the hurting. I want to be a conduit for change in both the world and individual lives.

I intend to go to school for interior design. It seems simple. Just make it pretty and practical. Choose a few paint colors, a carpet, a backsplash, some cabinets. Pick up some accent pillows at Target and you're good to go. But my passion runs a little deeper. I am driven by something more: people. I want that house from my dream for the people who filled it. I want to create dream homes for other people so that they can invite people into them. But more

specifically, I want to make houses into homes for the people who thought they might never have one, for the people who are grateful to simply have a roof over their heads. Those are the people to whom I want to give warmth and beauty. I want to excel in my field for the people who simply need a home, a place to belong. I want to be the best I can be so that I can give others what they deserve.