



# The perfect space

LDN Room Redo team transforms gathering area at Boon House

**BY JEFF KIESSEL**ASST. MANAGING EDITOR

"Blessed."

That's the first word you see when you enter the Connexion Point gathering space.

"Blessed" sums up how Dr. Michelle Kuster was feeling last week at the Ludington Daily News Room Redo reveal at Connexion Point gathering place located at 309 N. Rowe St.

As Dr. Kuster and Beth Kirby, Connexion Point board member, walked down the stairs — leading into the basement gathering space — both placed their hands over their mouths as they took in the transformation from a cold lifeless basement to an inviting and warm gathering space where people can engage with one another.

"I am speechless right now," Dr. Kuster

"I am speechless right now," Dr. Kuster said. "It is so warm and welcoming. I can't wait for everybody to see it. This will be a perfect gathering space for us."

The space — an 18-foot by 18-foot area — will be used as a gathering venue for men and women in recovery.

The home, known as the Boone House, was built in 1890 and donated to Connexion

Point to serve as a place for men working through their various addictions.

"I just never could have imagined it could have turned out this way," Kuster said. "This is just amazing."

When they looked around, they said the basement looked like every area had a purpose behind it. They took a few moments thanking the design team for their work in transforming the space.

"I was completely floored by the transformation of it," Kirby said. "It was dark and dirty before. It was a basement that was just used for storage, and now it is perfect for the gatherings."

Kuster agreed, saying she knew it would be a great space for people to gather.

"This was such a blank slate," she said. "I thought I could picture it, but there was so much thought and purpose behind it all."

Kuster took her time to investigate every little detail of the space during the reveal.

One of those areas included a donor wall where Connexion Point can place the names of people, organizations or businesses that help to keep their message alive.

There are many areas that allow the organization to be able to sit and gather. There is a small book library. Another area includes a coffee bar area. There are several seating options that will allow for a multitude of meeting options.

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Michelle Kuster and Beth Kirby get a look at the Ludington Daily News Room Redo for the first time at the reveal last week. Both were delighted at the transformation of the Boon House basement, from a space that was cold, dark and dirty to an area the is warm and inviting. The basement walls, floor and ceiling beams were cleaned and painted, taking the bulk of the work. Tony Kuster installed new basement windows, door the handrails.





A rug outside of the door welcomes guests to the gathering space located at the Boon House in Ludington.

In her application, Beth Kirby asked for a warm and inviting space to hold meetings and other functions. The design team created several spaces or nooks that could be used for small gatherings with chairs that could be pulled together for larger meetings.

### ROOM REDO: Connexion Point's Boon House gathering area is transformed

"This will give us so many possibilities of providing a safe gathering space," Kuster said. "I can't wait for our members and more

people to be involved in it.' Kirby said the space exceeded her expectations of what it could be when she first filled

out the Room Redo application. Kirby said her original intent behind applying for the Room Redo was to have a gathering place for groups to help in their

"I just wanted that space to be as warm and welcoming as the groups will be," Kirby

"They have such a vision," Kirby said of the Room Redo team. "We worried that if we did not get this (Room Redo), we would have to do this on our own. And we would have not even come close to doing something like

This year's Ludington Daily News Room Redo team consisted of Julie and Dann Van Dyke, of Cottage Works; Sue Von Pohl of Cottage Works and Niki Breazeale of Birch

"We were excited to pick Connexion Point's Gathering Room because it was different from any other project we have done in the past Room Redos," said Julie. "We all enjoyed getting to know Michelle and Tony Kuster better personally, and seeing the passion they and the board members have for helping others.'

The team spent many hours painting which helped to transform the space into the a welcoming gathering area.

This year, we didn't just beautify someone's home, we gave back to our community," she said. "This warm and cozy gathering room will be a great meeting space and boost the spirit of the Connexion Point cli-

Von Pohl once again brought her creativity to the team by creating a donor wall to the gathering space.

"My challenge this year was to create a donor wall for the gathering room," Von Pohl said. "When we learned that the Boon House symbol was a tree, that inspired me to create something organic — not the typical wall

plaque.
"With the help of the Wolf's Den of Scottville and Armour Design of Ludington, I was able to design engraved wooden rounds that will hang from the leaves of a wall-mounted tree sculpture.'

The thought behind the sculpture was as Connexion Point's donor list grows, its tree will blossom with the donors' names.

New to the Room Redo team this year was Breazeale.

"My design mission has always been to transform a home into a haven for my clients," said Breazeale. "The goal of that mission was magnified, once I learned about Connexion Point's mission. Organizations like Connexion Point are so important for a community not only to grow, but to take care of those who have contributed to build-

Breazeale is hopeful that the men of Connexion Point and the Boon House find this gathering space to be their safe haven to gather, heal and grow.



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Jason Muralt of ProMaster scrubs the basement floor before it was painted. The basement floor had some areas of grease and dirt that needed to be cleaned before Van Dyke could put down the final coat of paint.



Dann Van Dyke spray paints the ceiling in the basement of the Boon House.



The basement was cold and dirty before the crew started on the transformation.

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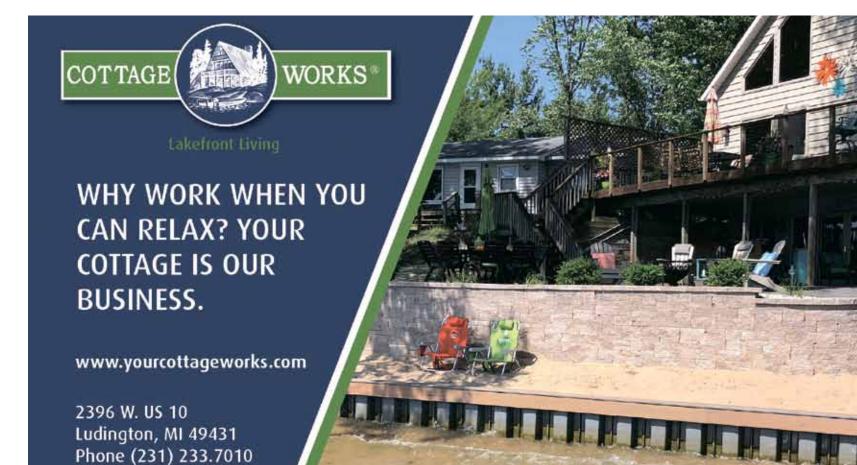


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Members of Connexion Point, its board and the Ludington Daily News Room Redo team pose for a group picture in the newly transformed gathering space located in the basement of the Boon House at 309 N. Rowe St.





Sue Von Pohl created this donor wall which will hang in the basement and recognize those individuals, organizations and businesses that help Connexion Point make a difference in the community.

Niki Breazeale and Liza McCloskey, foreground, move a chair into place as Sue Von Pohl places coat rack and bench at the bottom of the stairs leading down into the space.



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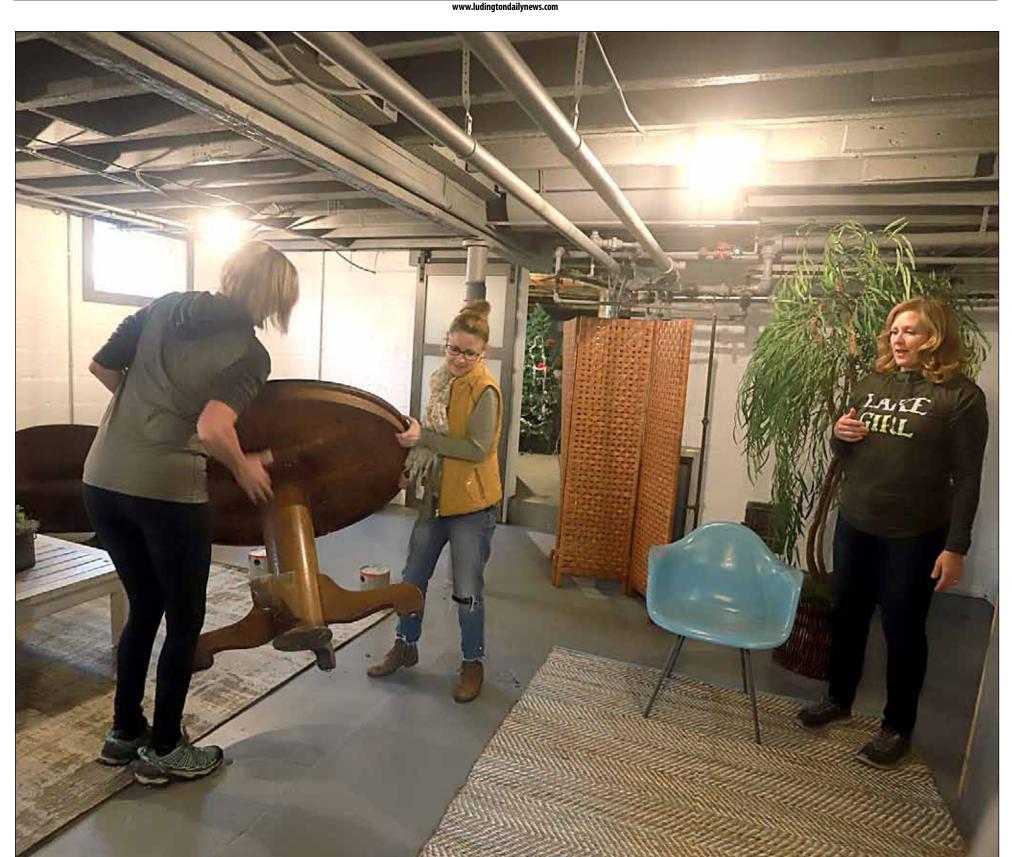


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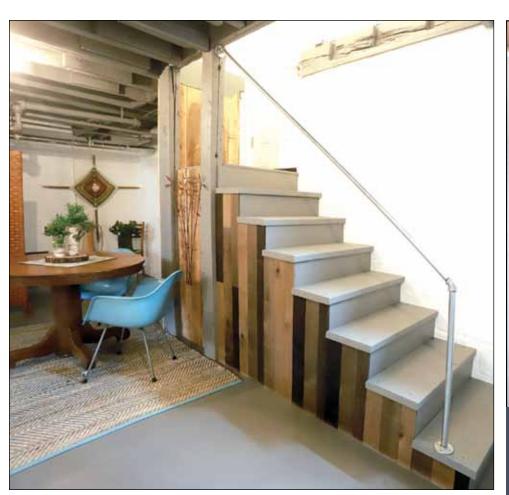


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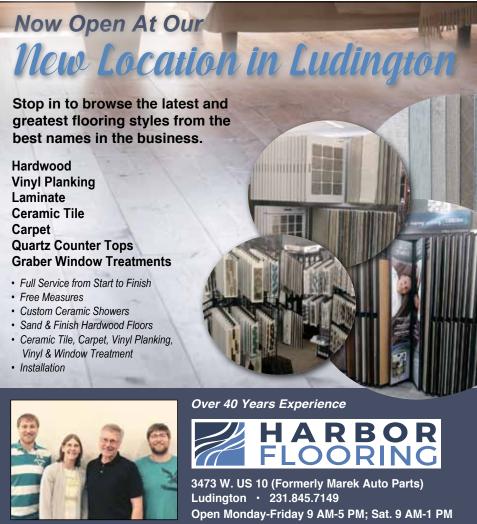


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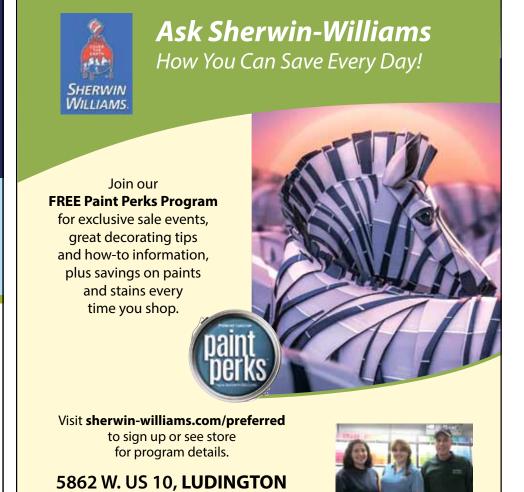
Julie Van Dyke, Sue Von Pohl and Niki Breazeale begin to set the gathering space at the Boon House last week prior to the reveal. The team incorporated an old table that was provided to them by Connexion Point. The team created several gathering spaces within the basement to allow for a variety of meetings to happen in the space.



The stairs leading down to the basement were done to provide a stable entry into the gathering space. The team encased the stairs with ship lap and ceder, and added a hand rail. They painted the treads, adding a non-slip tape.







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Julie Van Dyke and Niki Breazeale look on as the room is revealed last week.



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Julie Van Dyke talks with Connexion Point members Beth Kirby and Michelle Kuster at the reveal as they explore the newly transformed space.



Michelle Kuster gets a hug from Julie Van Dyke at the reveal.



A coat rack and bench combination is located at the bottom of the staircase.



Tony Kuster adds a handrail to the stairs leading to the gathering space. Kuster put in a lot of time helping in the redo, including installing new basement windows.





The team always adds their own special little details to bring the room together.





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#### **2020 Ludington Daily News Room Redo Connexion Point - Boon House**

Item	Durchasad from
Décor Items Needed	
Electric Fireplace	
Coat Rack/Bench at bottom of stairs	
Stair Rubs, Light Fixtures, Bulb	
Green Clock	
White washed Desk - Coffee Bar	Cottage Works
White washed coffee table	Cottage Works Mary Moyor
Wood Nesting Tables Set/3	
Galvinized Trough on Coffee Table	Cottage Works
w/3 Large Greens from All State Floral	
Leaf Bucket	Cottage Works
2 Wire Mesh Table Lamps	
Cute Botanical	
2 Lime/Brown Vases	
Chain Candle Holders	
Eucaliptus Branches	
7x10 Natural Rug	
Coffee Mugs - 17 White & Gold	Dirch Michigan
Mason Jars/Coffee bar accessories	Dilcii Milciligali Niki Dollar Gonoral
Floor Lamp & White washed side table	Niki-Dollai Generai
Tree Canvas	Diren Michigan
Coasters	
Rutan Screen Room Divider	
Faux Tree	
Shelves above Coffee Bar	
Birch Centerpiece for round table	
Shiplap - 2 Boxes	
Barn Door & Caster, Misc Hardware	
4 Pillows & Donor Tree-Sculpture/Wood burning 6	
Green Pillows	
Misc. Staging Items	
Rubber foot pads for blue chair	
10 Gallons of Grey Paint	LOWES
Kilz Primer	
3/4-inch by 6'-foot Pipe Ins	
Floor Paint	
Floor Cleaning	DroMactor
Coffee Maker	
Wood Rounds Engraving	
Water Bottles & Cookies for Reveal	Jue/At Hollie
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Room Redo 2020 was able to provide Connexion Point with a gathering space that will help the organization continue to make a difference in the community.



Michelle Kuster walks through the space to thank the room redo team last week.



Michelle Kuster and Beth Kirby were happy with the way the reveal went for the Room Redo. The space was turned into an area where Connexion Point could hold gatherings.



Connexion Point board member Jackie Steckel and Michelle Kuster take a closer look at everything during the unveiling of the gathering space at Connexion Point Boon House.



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