

Special Spaces creates dream bedrooms for children with life-threatening illnesses

New Boca Raton chapter

Boca Raton, Florida—Boca Raton officially has its own chapter of Special Spaces, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that creates dream bedrooms for children with life-threatening medical illnesses. This is a place where only the child can dream of or imagine, where they can retreat to while addressing their medical needs.

Director Peggy Peterson brought a Special Spaces chapter to Boca Raton in July 2016. It is their belief that children facing this difficult journey need a special space to heal, recover and find peace—a place of hope and inspiration.

The group's first makeover is scheduled for Oct. 22-23. Marissa is a 15-year-old Lake Worth resident who at four months was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome, a neurological disorder mostly found in girls that affects a person's ability to do many things we take for granted like talking and walking. They are locked inside their bodies with all the intellect of a neuro-typical person, but with every aspect of their life being affected. Marissa is non-verbal, but has a communication device; has physical limitations, but is mobile; and sometimes has light seizures.

"Marissa loves bright colors, getting mani's and pedi's, shopping, listening to music, eating out and swimming, but she especially loves Justin Bieber," says Peterson. "We will be creating two special spaces for Marissa—her bedroom and therapy room, where there is a great need for therapeutic equipment to help stimulate her mind and improve her balance and strength. Her bedroom will be a typical teen room that is welcoming and inspiring, with of course, a poster or two of Justin Bieber!"

Marissa's room makeover is sponsored by Statler Orthodontics in Boca Raton.

"We're thrilled to be able to support Special Spaces Boca Raton and its dedicated volunteers, but even more so, we look forward to helping create a bright and lively new space for Marissa," says Dr. Jennifer Statler.

About Special Spaces

Founded in 2004 in Knoxville, Tennessee, Special Spaces was formed on the precedent that children battling a life threatening illness need their own special space to heal, recover and find peace. Our mission is to create dream bedrooms that only the child can dream of or imagine where they can retreat to while addressing their medical needs; a special space of hope and inspiration.

The process begins when the child and family are interviewed to get an in-depth understanding of the child's wishes and dreams in order to create a unique and medically functional room. A little girl may dream of a princess room while the parents are in critical need of storage space for medical supplies.

Special Spaces Boca Raton relies solely on the generous donations of local businesses, corporations, foundations and the community to provide supplies, services and finances to bedroom renovation projects. An average room makeover can cost upwards of \$3,000, depending on the needs of the child. Therefore, corporate sponsorship, room sponsorship, fundraiser events, and individual donors are crucial to raising the money needed to complete a room.

To be a part of a Special Spaces child's makeover, please visit the chapter at www.facebook.com/specialspacesbocaraton. For more information about the Special Spaces organization, visit <http://specialspaces.org>.

For information on becoming a corporate or room sponsor, contact Peggy Peterson at 561-409-9360 or peggy@specialspaces.org.