

Abused children can't wait

Alex McCreight and Emily Robinson, co-owners of woodworking company GastonMade, are making two pieces of handmade wooden furniture for Dallas CASA's April 5 Cherish the Children luncheon. Emily talked to us recently about the couple's creative process and their hopes for the chairs.

Tell us about the inspiration for the chairs you are designing.

We're planning to create a geometric pattern out of wood pieces for the seat, adding pops of color across the chair to contrast the natural grain. As a woodworking business, we produce a lot of scraps, and we're always looking for ways to use them. For us, these chairs represent the perfect opportunity to upcycle while also giving back to the children of our community.

What do you hope for a child who sits in one of your chairs?

Inspiration, wonder and curiosity.

Tell us about your brand and the creative ideas you share together.

Our brand is built on simple, purposeful design, always with a dash of fun. We believe furniture should be well-made, functional and beautiful but never too complicated. Working with a partner can be like the secret ingredient to creativity. Collaboration is the magic behind all our ideas! If I ever get stuck, Alex has a solution and vice versa. And if we're both stuck, we go out for pizza and figure it out later. Because pizza is like magic too, right?

Any special memories of your own childhood?

One of my favorite traditions came from my Nana and Papa, my mother's parents. Every year he would cut out little wooden ornaments in the shape of a girl or boy doing different activities – dancing, jumping, sledding, etc. And then my Nana would hand-paint them with all the details. They were such a special gift we received every year growing up. It's funny to think about now, as I watch Alex and I follow this same pattern of craftsmanship. It's a great feeling to know you're carrying on those skills for your generation ... and the next.

