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THE BUSINESS OF GOOD WORKS

Pear does makeover of children's home

Office furniture and design company Pear Commercial Interiors is donating its services to remodel 11 classrooms at the Denver Children's Home which houses and cares for abused or mistreated children.

John Robbins, President and CEO of Pear, recently took a tour of the



John Robbins of Pear Commercial Interiors, center, discusses ideas for remodeling classrooms at the Denver Children's Home with Rebecca Hea, left, executive director of development for DCH, and Barbara Sanchez-Martin, a DCH teacher.

home in central Denver and was shocked that the classrooms were in such poor condition. Robbins estimates upgrades will cost at least \$5,000 per classroom.

"It was almost poverty level," he said. "Kids who have committed crimes and are in the juvenile system have incredible facilities, but these kids haven't done anything wrong."

Robbins is taking money his company usually spends on gift baskets and flowers for regular clients and investing in the classrooms on behalf of the clients. Denver-based Pear gives gift baskets and sends

flowers as a way of sustaining business relationships, and it will continue some of that, but Robbins thinks the money is put to better use upgrading the classrooms.

The CEO wants to finish the project this year and has enlisted other business partners like a lighting company. Upgrades also will include replacing the carpeting and painting the rooms.