

## WEAVING A BETTER LIFE

Amity Home is proud to partner with re:loom<sup>®</sup>, a job skills training program for individuals struggling with low-income and homelessness. The partnership started in 2016 with a few simple accent pillows, and has grown each season in quantity and complexity of style. “With each new design, there is a new opportunity for the weavers to learn new weaving skills, but it’s more than that,” says Designer, Susan Lynch Scranton, “overcoming new challenges in the learning process, helps to build self-confidence and personal growth. It’s about much more than weaving and a job.”

Not only do these pillows add a dramatic design statement, and job skills training, they are hand woven from deadstock, over stock and seconds which may otherwise have ended up in landfill. “That in and of itself is a design challenge,” Scranton adds. “We might go to re:loom<sup>®</sup> with a design and palate in mind, but if certain colors or textures are not there, or not in sufficient quantity, we have to redesign based on what is available. The whole process takes much longer than just making something from new materials that can be reproduced over and over.” Due to the limited quantity of each material used and the hand-crafted nature, variations are to be expected and appreciated.

re:loom<sup>®</sup> is a program of Initiative for Affordable Housing, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in Decatur, Georgia. Founded in 1990 with one home and one homeless family. Initiative for Affordable Housing’s mission is to provide permanent, affordable housing to homeless and low-income families in metro Atlanta. Their rigorous, holistic social services program empowers individuals to reach personal goals and achieve independence.

