



Photo by Matt Wittmeyer

10 THINGS I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT Leona Piro

Leona Piro is owner of Act Two Home Staging in Mendon and a member of the International Association of Home Stagers. *Rochester HomeStyle* asked her to share her list of essentials.



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1 Family: I am so fortunate to have the love and support of my husband, Chris, my son, Christopher, and my daughter, Stephanie. I have cherished every phase of being a mother.

2 Italian Food: Homemade pasta is the best! Grilled eggplant, artichokes and provolone are some of my favorite foods. I could make a meal of an antipasto, freshly baked bread and a great glass of wine. Tiramisu is my favorite dessert. For authentic Italian food, I enjoy Ristorante Lucano on East Avenue in Rochester.

3 Humor: I love to be around people who make me laugh. Both my husband and children have a great sense of humor. Also, there's nothing like the antics of young children and their candid remarks to make me smile.

4 Flowers: Growing, arranging and decorating with fresh flowers is one of my favorite pastimes. I always have fresh flowers on my desk, sometimes my own arrangements and other times from the florist. It's a weekly treat I have given myself for as long as I can remember. I often use fresh

flowers when staging homes. They add color and warmth to any room.

5 Animals: Animals fascinate me! I live close to Mendon Ponds Park, so I get to watch deer, rabbits, pheasants and an occasional fox right in my own back yard. My family has two Russian Blue cats that provide endless amusement and affection in our home.

6 Dreaming: I love to read and dream about traveling the world. Although I don't currently have the freedom to travel, I hope to spend my years after retirement experiencing different cultures.

7 My flat iron: I have coarse, wavy, hard-to-manage hair that is very high maintenance. I use a CHI flat iron to tame my wild hair.

8 My laptop: I love my Apple iBook. Being able to answer Web site inquiries and e-mails at odd hours helps me maximize my workday.

9 Coffee: It's impossible to start my day without a cup. I love deep, rich coffee. My current favorite is Cafe Santo Domingo, produced in the Dominican Republic.

10 Time to be alone: For me, it's sometimes as simple as a walk in the park or as indulgent as a weekend getaway at a spa. I like time on my own to reflect on life without distraction. **H**