



Marilyn Smit  
M45 Marketing Services  
815.690.9346  
[marilyn.smit@m45.com](mailto:marilyn.smit@m45.com)

Sarah Rogers  
M45 Marketing Services  
815.690.9347  
[sarah.rogers@m45.com](mailto:sarah.rogers@m45.com)

## ***The Stott Family: Making a Green Dream Come True***

**ABC-TV's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* and Hasken Construction  
RAISE THE ROOF for The Stott Family in Northwest Illinois**

**Lena, Ill., 9 September 2009** – The Stott Family of rural Lena, Illinois have always had a dream of living in the country, running a small organic farm, raising animals and being as “green” as possible. They are strong believers in giving back to the community and helping others. Now it is their turn to be helped!

When Joey and Philip married six years ago, they were both single parents: Philip had two children, Kaila and Jonathon (now ages 18 and 16, respectively), and Joey had one, Michael (now age 15). When they became one family, they bought a small farm that they named *Spring View Acres* close to Joey's home town of Lena. The farm included a barn, chicken coop, pig-pen, other out-buildings and a very old farmhouse with no insulation and 100-year-old wiring, all of which the family planned to update and improve over the coming years.

Only three months after purchasing the farm and less than a year after the wedding, Joey got what they thought was the flu, but she kept getting sicker and sicker. Philip took her to the hospital, where they received the devastating news that she had acute myeloid leukemia. The prognosis was grim as the only cure was a bone marrow transplant from a matching donor. The chances of finding a match were slim, but miraculously, an anonymous donor was found in October 2004. Joey spent most of the next two years in the hospital, missing the first two Springs on the farm and draining all of the family funds meant for fixing the farmhouse, improving the land, and setting up college funds for the kids. But, she got well!

Joey was so thankful that she survived the leukemia that she decided to do everything she could to change her life – and the life of her family – for the better. She went back to school at Highland Community College in Freeport, IL in 2006 and after barely graduating high school many years before, she graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade point average in 2009. She was president of the honor society, vice president of the student senate and spent much of her limited free time tutoring disabled students on campus. At her graduation this May, she was awarded the Citizenship Award, a prestigious award given to only one student each year to honor their service to the college and their community. Joey has been accepted at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville this fall, where she will



finish her education by studying for her bachelor's degree. Her children are following in her footsteps: all of their grades have gone up while their mom has been attending school, and Kaila, the eldest, started at Highland Community College this fall.

Just before Joey's graduation this Spring, though, disaster struck the Stott family again. While Philip was working a night shift, the floor in the 100-year-old farm house started to shake and Joey saw electrical outlets sparking and exploding. She quickly got the children and ran to the barn. From that safe location, they saw explosion after explosion in their house. They called the local fire department on a mobile phone. The firefighters arrived almost immediately, but not before irreparable damage had been done to the house. Walls were knocked down in fighting the fire, leaving gaping holes. Much of the furniture was destroyed.

The farmhouse was not in good shape before the fire – without adequate insulation, the family often chose to sleep in the living room during the winter, where it was warmer than the bedrooms. Most of the windows leaked.

The Stott family still has not given up on their dream of becoming self-sufficient farmers, even with all the hardships they've endured. They have rescued a wide variety of animals that now live with them at Spring View Acres. They have 30 Shetland sheep, a breed that was almost endangered a few short years ago, to help maintain the grass. They've also rescued three dogs from abused homes and have trained one as a therapy dog, taking him to local nursing homes for frequent visits. An over-ridden horse has also joined their family – Joey nursed him back to health and now rides him when volunteering as a mounted patrol officer in support of local police at community events. They recently added chickens to the farm and enjoy having eggs to give to their neighbors.

Philip and Joey frequently sell produce grown organically at their farm at local farmers' markets. They pride themselves on growing everything on their farm chemical-free. They would like to be able to eventually generate their own power onsite too, so that they will be able to be completely independent and live "off the grid."

The Stotts were selected as an *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* family following their nomination for the program by area family friends. Hasken Construction and their team of volunteers are delighted that they were asked to help the Stott family dreams come true! For more information and regular updates on the build, please visit [www.haskenconstruction.com](http://www.haskenconstruction.com) .

###