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ABC-TV Show Wraps Up; Giving Continues in NW Illinois

An estimated 6,000 people showed up to welcome Stott family home

Freeport, Ill., 18 September 2009 – It wasn't your typical vacation for the Stott family. They left home Thursday, Sept. 10 for a trip to San Francisco, courtesy of – and accompanied by – Disney Vacation Club in San Francisco. The family wouldn't have any contact with anyone back home – no quick calls to check on how the horses were doing, no text messages to or from the kids' friends.

But oh, it was worth it. When the Stotts came home, it was to an amazingly silent crowd of thousands, waiting for a director's OK to erupt into cheers. Behind the fabled *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* bus waited a beautiful new home for the family of 5.

"It was so quiet!" Kaila said. "I can't believe they got so many people to be so quiet"

"It was amazing," Joey said. "We took our blindfolds off, and it was just a sea of smiling faces and a huge wave of love."

With a huge cheer from the crowd, the bus pulled away, revealing the Stotts' new 3,000 square foot home. A gently curving sidewalk led up the lush green front yard to their new white house with yellow shutters and a bright yellow door.

"It is the most beautiful home ..." Joey said. "When the bus first pulled away, it looked like a dollhouse. This went way beyond what Philip and I ever talked about – beyond our wildest dreams!"

Philip is excited about the home's many green qualities. "It's surreal. The geothermal heating and cooling and wind energy will run our heat pump and all of our appliances, which

are Energy Star compliant. The craftsmanship and quality of what our community has put together is just amazing.”

More than 3,000 volunteers – both professional tradespeople and everyday people – worked together to build the house in 106 hours for ABC’s hit reality show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. The effort was led by Rick Hasken, co-owner with his wife, Laurie, of Hasken Construction.

“There are those who say that the spirit of community is a thing of the past,” Rick Hasken said. “I’m proud to say that’s certainly not true in northwest Illinois.”

The amazing experience took just a week – from Ty Pennington knocking on the Stotts’s old door on Sept. 9 to opening the door to their new home Sept. 16. The actual building of the house took only 106 hours. The *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* episode filmed last week will air in December 2009 or January 2010, according to ABC.

The project inspired more than the 3,000 people who literally touched it, spurring hundreds of people to donate money or goods and services to the project, donate blood, sign up to be bone marrow donors or donate a nonperishable food item for area food pantries. Organizers of the *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* build will work to carry on that spirit of giving with community service drives and more in the upcoming weeks.

“The University of Illinois Extension, which is spearheading the Pay It Forward: EXTREME effort, has already received calls from interested groups,” said Marilyn Smit, co-founder of M45 Marketing Services, which handled marketing and public relations for the build.

“We’re looking forward to showcasing one youth organization each week until this show’s airdate,” Smit said. “Those groups will be carrying on the incredibly generous spirit of giving we’ve seen in the past week here in northwest Illinois. If your group is interested, please call the University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County at 815.235.4125 by Friday 9 October.”

For more information on the *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* northwest Illinois build, visit www.extremehaskenconstruction.com. Follow events leading up to the build – and the build itself – via [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About Hasken Construction

Hasken Construction LLC is dedicated to building distinctive, quality crafted custom homes and commercial buildings with unique designs, attention to detail, and tailored to customers' dream specifications. When building, designing, remodeling and/or renovating, their custom work is based on the customer's objectives. As a full-service builder, they direct the building process from the concept stage through final completion with the goal of delivering the highest quality product with prompt, courteous service. This includes but is not limited to site analysis, blueprint development, actual construction, landscaping, and warranty service.

The Haskens began remodeling existing homes in 1982. In 1985, Hasken Construction began building at Lake Carroll, Illinois and since that time they have become a major presence in northwest Illinois.

About ABC-TV's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*

"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," which has won back-to-back Emmy Awards as Best Reality Program (non-competitive), is entering its 7th season on ABC. The program is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. Anthony Dominici is the executive producer; and David Goldberg is the president of Endemol USA. The show airs on Sundays (7:00 p.m. CST), on the ABC Television Network.

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