

The Southside Messenger
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Tear It Down. Build It Back in 7 Days

The Lucas family started building a new home, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition is stepping in to finish the job.

It's not every day that a television show comes to Southside Virginia. On Monday, December 3rd early in the morning, that all changed when the crew of ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition surprised the Michael Lucas family at their home in Prince Edward County.

The location was the site of an important Civil War battle, and Michael Lucas has long dreamed of building a new, safe home there for his wife and two children while also paying homage to the rich history of the ground itself. At present, Michael is fighting to protect his fellow Americans as a member of the National Guard, but his thoughts are never far from his family in Virginia. The initial plans for his dream home have been put on hold during his deployment, and he longs to give his wife, Jean and their two sons, Michael Henry, age 11 and Joseph, age 6, a safe shelter that will be a monument to the past as well as a home for generations to come. Jean home schools both boys and members of the home schooling cooperative they belong to nominated the family for the extreme home makeover. In Lucas' absence, EMHE will help make the dream home he envisions a reality for his family.

Things got off to a good start Monday morning when Ty Pennington surprised the family with his trademark megaphone shout "Good Morning, Lucas family!" Until the moment of the crew's arrival, the Lucas family had no idea that their home had been selected for this extreme remodel. Mrs. Lucas and her two children were completely shocked. The house they lived in was a rental located in Darlington Heights and their new home is being built in Rice. Ken Broadwater Homes, LLC of Cartersville, VA plus hundreds of workers and volunteers are working together to give the Lucas family their dream home. The design team for this build consists of team leader Ty Pennington, Michael Moloney, Paul DiMeo, Rib Hillis and guest designer, Phyllis Bowie. The Lucas family is spending their gift of a weeklong resort vacation at Disney World in Florida. When the work ends and the dust clears, the Lucas family will finally be able to come home and see their brand new dream house.

Over the course of the next week, Broadwater and his team will collaborate with local community members to do the impossible: build an entire house in a mere six days from foundation to finishes. When the project is complete, the result will be even more than just a house; it will be the Lucas family home.

Wednesday, day three of the makeover, started with a demolition, sort of. They took down the frame of a house Specialist Michael Lucas started to build before he got called to Iraq. A house on a very special plot of land. This is where the Battle of High Bridge was fought. A civil war hospital used to be right next door.

Michael Lucas is fascinated by the rich history.

Designer Paul DiMeo said, “Michael loves everything about the Civil War, especially the battle of High Bridge which happened within a few miles of right here so we’re looking for a lot of Civil War Memorabilia.”

If you would like to donate, just head to the site in Rice on Saturday. It’s just past Farmville on Route 460. Look for the giant roadblock on the side of the road. The design team will be there to collect any Civil War memorabilia you can part with. They’ll only be there from 1:00 to 3:00.