

## **EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION in Owensboro**

Representative Tommy Thompson of Owensboro, Kentucky and his company, Thompson Homes, Inc., were the primary builders on a recent taping of the hit ABC show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. The show, which is a notorious tear jerker enjoyed by millions of Americans each week, revolves around building a new home in record time for a deserving family.

The family chosen in Daviess County was the Mattinglys. Steve Mattingly was a firefighter who was injured and disabled while on duty, and happened to be helped by his wife, Melissa, who was driving by the scene at the time and used her training as an EMT to assist her husband. Steve has undergone numerous operations, but lingering pain, memory loss, and trouble balancing will inhibit his wage-earning abilities for the remainder of his life. That leaves Melissa as the family's only worker, trying hard to provide for two daughters, Alana, 12, and Madison, 11, while living in a 700-square foot mobile home.

On September 5, the Mattingly's lives changed as Ty Pennington and the rest of the team woke up the family and let them know that they would have a new home in a matter of days.

Within the next 96 hours, the Mattinglys had a new home built from the ground up! Rep. Thompson and the folks at Thompson Homes, along with thousands of other skilled volunteers, worked around the clock to construct a beautiful, new, 3,200-square foot home for the family to enjoy. Contractors who were usually competitors worked side-by-side on completing this monstrous task within the allotted time. There were upwards of 200 workers in the house at any given moment, bringing big appetites! The volunteers went through 17,000 bottles of water and \$125,000 worth of food. The work site was visited by Governor Beshear and Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardo, and the volunteers were treated to a concert by country singer Clint Black.

The mobile home that the Mattinglys used to call home was ceremoniously dismantled. As viewers of the show are aware, the destruction of the old house is a big part of the show. Owensboro will not let the viewers down! The mobile home was taken to a dirt track and destroyed with the help of a monster truck.

In addition to the service done for the Mattinglys, a food and blood drive was held in the community. Through the kind offerings of the community, 12 tons of food were collected during the food drive and 277 pints of blood donated! "I am so proud of the community and all of the good-hearted people here," added Representative Thompson.

At the end of the week, the Mattinglys returned home to a crowd of 2,500 waiting to scream at the bus driver, "Move that bus!" Steve Buttleman, the bugler at Churchill Downs, was there to add a little bit of Kentucky flare to the event. In addition to a new home, the family received a home maintenance fund with \$20,000 donated by the community, as well as full scholarships for the children from Western Kentucky University, Brescia, Kentucky Wesleyan College, and Owensboro Community and Technical College.

Rep. Thompson declared that this was the most gratifying project he has ever been involved in. "We set out to change the life of a deserving family," said Thompson, adding "and in the process it changed my life."

This is the show's seventh season and 159<sup>th</sup> build. The producers were adamant that they have not seen many communities that had more generosity, spirit, and enthusiasm for helping others than Owensboro and Daviess County. The episode featuring Rep. Thompson and the Mattinglys will air on Sunday, November 1, 2009, at 8:00 PM.