



For Immediate Release
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**“EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION”
HELPS A FAMILY WHO’S SUFFERED THE DOUBLE TRAGEDY OF LOSING THEIR HOME TO
A FIRE AND THEIR FATHER AND SON IN A DROWNING ACCIDENT**

Voluntown, CT., December 4, 2008 - On December 4, “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” will be traveling to Voluntown, Connecticut, to tell the Girard family that they’ll have a new home in only seven days. The Girard family lost their home to a fire a year ago, then faced an unimaginable double tragedy when husband Thomas and eldest son Marc drowned during a family swim, leaving Carol and her four children Adam, Jacqueline, Lucas, and Hannah devastated.

Pinnacles of their community, the Girard family has always participated in a variety of volunteer efforts and charitable missions. The true heroism and courage of Thom and Marc Girard will live forever in the memories of the many people whose lives they touched. Both members of the Friars and the Knights of La Ponte, father and son embodied the spirit of generosity and dedication in all aspects of their lives. Marc had just graduated from Norwich Free Academy and was planning to study to become a priest, while Thom, a computer technician by trade, donated his time to fundraise for the elderly and the poor and to repair computers at the children’s elementary school.

A year ago, the family lost their home in an accidental fire. All seven family members moved first into a tent, then into a tiny camper on the family’s property. Eventually, the family was forced to move to Carol’s mother’s house, which is almost 40 miles away from where the children go to school. The children sleep scattered throughout the house—in the living room or in the cellar—due to lack of space.

Then one afternoon in June, Thom and three of his children went for a swim in a nearby lake. When Thom began having trouble breathing, 18-year-old Marc made sure his two younger siblings were safe before rushing into the lake to help his father. Tragically, neither Marc nor his father made it back and Marc died trying to save his father’s life.

The Girard Family needs help and it is up to Ty and his designers to build this brave family a new home: a place where they can recover from the immeasurable loss they’ve experienced. While Ty and the designers, local builder Home Designs BY Bruno and hundreds of volunteers and workers are building their home, the Girard family will go on vacation to Walt Disney World.

The design team for this episode of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” will feature team leader Ty Pennington and designers Michael Moloney, Paige Hemmis, Ed Sanders and Rib Hillis.

The location address is: The Girard Family 100 Preston City Road, Voluntown, CT 06384.

The community is encouraged to visit the site to watch this incredible build for this deserving family. In an effort to continue to “Pay it Forward,” we are asking those who plan to visit the site to bring a can of food for the Gemma E. Moran United Way Labor Food Center and or a toy to support the Tommy Toy Fund as shuttle admission. **ALL Spectators and Non-Trades volunteers MUST**

park at the Plainfield Dog Track located at 137 Lanthrop Road, Plainfield, Conn., 06374 to catch a Shuttle to the build location.

Media Instructions

There will be a press conference on the property at 4 p.m. with the family on December 4, 2008. No microwave or wireless microphones.

The media is welcome on site for the duration of the Girard family build. Media hours are Sunday, December 7 – December 10, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily media releases and alerts will be distributed along with website blogs for additional information. Media ID is required at site check-in and advanced scheduling is highly recommended. News releases will be available on the website: www.extremehomebybruno.com.

Park at the Plainfield Dog Track mentioned above. Interviews with the builders, designers and project managers can be scheduled through the duration of the project. All interviews must be scheduled through the media contact (listed above). Attempts to interview on-site without permission will result in loss of access to the site. All media are required to stay in the media tent for coverage. Unfortunately, we cannot allow media to be a part of construction, volunteer or walk into the house during the build or until after the airdate of the show. Thank you for your cooperation.

Photographers will be assisted by Media tent personnel to obtain LIVE shots and special requests to park satellite trucks, again please schedule with the media contact.

About Home Designs By Bruno

With more than 25 years in business, Home Designs By Bruno, based in Colchester, C.T., specializes in General Contracting, Construction, and Budget Management Consulting for Commercial and Residential construction. Its vision is to help clients simplify the construction process at an affordable price. For more information about Home Designs By Bruno, visit www.homedesignsbybruno.com.

About Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

The series is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. It's executive-produced by Anthony Dominici. David Goldberg is the president of Endemol USA. "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" is broadcast with Spanish subtitles via secondary closed captioning. A TV parental guideline will be posted closer to airdate.

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