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## 'Makeover' after dark: Volunteers forgo sleep in race to finish home



Staff photos by Cindy Burnham

People work late Monday under the lights on the home being built for 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.' See more photos at [fayobserver.com](#).

By **Brian Dukes**  
 Staff writer

While most of Fayetteville slept Monday night, the small army of blue-shirted volunteers worked ceaselessly at the "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" construction site.

"That's what it takes when you're building a home in a week," said Chip Smith, chief executive officer and president of Blue Ridge Log Cabins of South Carolina.

The company is building a home for Barbara Marshall, founder of the Steps N Stages Jubilee House for women veterans in transition. The ABC reality series has been in town since last week filming construction of the house, which will be revealed Thursday.

With tired red eyes, Smith lingered at the site until nearly midnight Monday, trying to do as much as possible. He checked and double-checked his lengthy mental to-do list. He met with volunteers, offering words of thanks and encouragement.

"When you see these hundreds of workers and volunteers, it's really humbling and it makes you want to do more, no matter how much sleep you've lost," Smith said.

Stories of sleep deferred were abundant from volunteers and spectators alike - many of whom worked their regular job Monday, then came to the site on Langdon Street.

"I went to work and then came out here just to watch," said Jose Paniagua, a Fayetteville carpenter. "But then they said they really needed carpenters, so I grabbed my tools and started helping."



[\*] click to enlarge

Snacks and antacid are on hand at the Ramsey Street school cafeteria for those working on the house.

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During a water break, Paniagua said he spent most of his time working on bedrooms, but he could not give details about what the rooms will be like.

"I can tell you that it's really coming together," he said. "And that it's really tough at times to work with so many people right next to you. The good thing is that I'm doing this at night, so it's not too hot."

On Monday, crews were adding a stone veneer to a section of exterior wall and outdoor decks for the first and second floors. Construction had begun on a structure in the backyard.

Through the windows, bright green paint could be seen on interior walls; paint crews had blue and purple paint supplies.

Smith said extensive landscaping is being done in the backyard and the result will be a highlight for viewers.

#### **Drinks and snacks**

Smith said the plan for today is to have furniture placed in time for the big reveal at 2 p.m. Thursday.

Smith said it's important that volunteers continue to help, but they need to take care of themselves.

Energy drinks, water and snacks were provided in the gym at Ramsey Street Alternative School, where volunteers could find a meal or just watch TV and enjoy the air conditioning.

"They say an army runs on its stomach; this army runs on Gatorade," said volunteer Mike Karaman as he filled a refrigerator with sodas, orange juice and water for the third time Monday.

Karaman and his daughter, Rachel, said they came out to volunteer and were assigned kitchen duty, sort of.

"Our job is to help keep people fed and to serve them like you would a guest in your home," Karaman said. "And you'd think it's less busy at night, but it's not. This is a 24-hour site, so people are eating all the time."

Nowhere was that more evident than in the entry to the gym, where a pair of dry-erase boards listed meal times and daily specials provided by local and national food vendors and restaurants, including CiCi's Pizza, Chick Fil-A, Hooters and Wendy's.

A pair of frenetic figures worked up an appetite on the school stage by playing air hockey with a video image of Ty Pennington's head.

Oliver Ferrier and Gino Centofanti, founders of Vislogix Interactive Innovators of Florida, were testing their ResponDR technology, which can make any surface - such as a wall, floor or TV screen - an interactive one.

"We're programming and testing content right now," Centofanti said. "But the kids will be able to play games like volleyball or air hockey, or even the drums and other instruments, just by waving their hands in front of the wall."

The two said their technology will be featured in the home's recreation room.

"We think the kids that stay in the home are really going to love this," said Centofanti.

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