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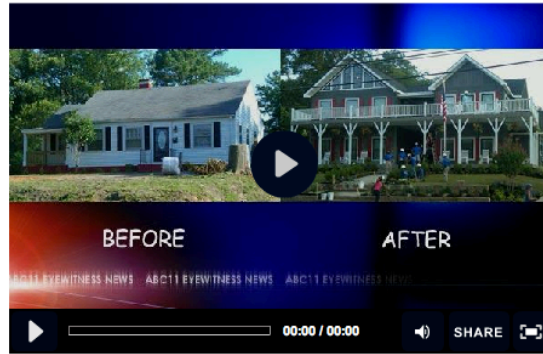
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Thursday, July 21, 2011



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FAYETTEVILLE (WTVD) -- With a half dozen TV cameras rolling, and First Lady Michelle Obama next to her, Barbara Marshall got the keys to her brand new home Thursday afternoon.

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Marshall and her excited family wasted no time rushing inside to check it out.

It's been a hectic week for volunteers on the ABC TV show Extreme Makeover Home Edition who worked around the clock to get the home ready in just seven days.

Marshall, who was featured in ABC11 stories last fall, is a former Navy officer who was using her old home for the Steps-N-Stages Jubilee House for homeless female veterans who need assistance.

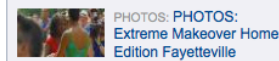
Marshall's old home was pulled down, and now she has a huge new house for the program.

Mrs. Obama arrived Thursday afternoon to help add a few finishing touches. The First Lady's visit to the project is part of her Joining Forces initiative which highlights the challenges military families face.

Show host Ty Pennington said one reason for the First Lady's trip was the green house the Extreme Makeover built in the backyard. Mrs. Obama has used her green thumb to help spark interest in backyard gardens across the country.

"She's very big about Joining Forces, which is about taking care of the military families, but she's also about Americans eating healthy and produce," Pennington said. "And so we want to take some of her ideas and give them a green house so they can grow their own produce, help feed the families that are inside the Jubilee house. And maybe even give back to the community."

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On the build, show host Ty Pennington got help from designers Paul DiMeo, Tracy Hutson, John Littlefield and Sabrina Soto. Producers say the new home will be able to house multiple families. It will also be a place where Marshall's son - who is developmentally delayed - can thrive.

Along with housing three women veterans and their children, the Jubilee House works with over 30 homeless women veterans seeking assistance each week.

The Extreme Makeover Home Edition show featuring the Fayetteville build is scheduled to air on ABC in October.

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