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Chavonne: 'Extreme Makeover' was a blessing for Fayetteville

By Tony and Joanne Chavonne Fayetteville

Fayetteville has a lot to be thankful for. Most recently we have all benefited from the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have an "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" project in our city.



J. Chavonne

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We can be thankful for Carolina Blue skies, a week without major injury and plenty of water. But we gained so much more than just building a house.

We can give thanks for Barbara Marshall - for her vision for the Jubilee House; her commitment to help address the homelessness issue in our community; and for her passion and energy for our nation's veterans.

We can give thanks for the Extreme Makeover team for recognizing the wonderful story of the Jubilee House and for helping to share it - in their special way - with all of America. Their crews were respectful, professional and attentive to all of our city's needs.

We had the opportunity to meet Chip and Laura Smith and the entire Blue Ridge Log Cabin family from Spartanburg, S.C. It was exciting to hear their perspective as outsiders as they reflected on the exciting things happening in Fayetteville.

Fayetteville should be proud of her citizens for their overwhelming support. Neighbors in the Langdon Street area never complained about the huge disruptions they experienced. More than 3,000 citizens from throughout Cumberland County volunteered their time to help with this project.

Perhaps most of all, we should give thanks for this special time that we all shared. For an intense week in July, we saw everyday people from all walks of life, including soldiers, military family members, elected officials, business owners, city staff and construction professionals, come together to work on this exciting project for the Jubilee House and our community.

It was a very special time when we were able to renew our appreciation for the huge heart that is Fayetteville and what it feels like to work together to help a person in need.

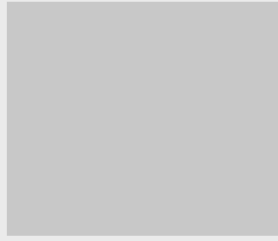
In October, millions of viewers from all across America and the world will tune in to see "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." They will hear the heartwarming story of Barbara Marshall. They will experience a wonderful house being built in only seven days. And they will hear of the story of Fayetteville - America's hometown - and the special people who live here.

For the experience of those seven days in July, our All-America City - and each of us - will be forever blessed.

Tony Chavonne is mayor of Fayetteville. Joanne Chavonne, his wife, worked with "Extreme Makeover" to recruit and coordinate volunteers for the project.

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