



Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

Barbara and George Kadzis and their seven children, five of whom were special-needs children adopted from China, received the gift of a lifetime when ABC's hit reality show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" came to Leon County in February of 2009.

The County offered the services of its 800-employee-strong workforce, including its Facilities and Public Works skilled laborers, to assist in the timely completion of this home.

During the construction phase, Emergency Medical Services kept paramedics on site, and the Code Enforcement team made sure that the family would live in a safe and solid sanctuary.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office provided security and crowd-control efforts and worked with their counterparts in the Tallahassee Police Department to provide additional aid. These collaborative efforts proved to be a prime example of how one community that pulls together can change lives.

After the family (right) was presented with their new home, Stevie Wonder stopped by to perform a personalized song in their honor.

On March 2, George Jacob Kadzis passed away – two days after the home was completed. The father of seven, who was battling brain cancer, was able to see his wish come true – that his wife and children would have a safe home to live in after his death.



ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" Leon County Build - Kadzis Family

The Leon County Board of County Commissioners was proud to welcome ABC's Emmy-Award-winning, hit reality show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" in February of this year.

A new, quality-constructed home was going to be built for a local family and would be completed in only seven days, and all the products and labor would be donated.

The project ignited the spirit of the community the way that the early 1900s barn raisings would, bringing the people of Leon County together to give a family a home.

There was an outpouring of volunteers from throughout the County who offered their time, financial support and resources to help ensure the success of this life-altering project.

On Feb. 20, 2009, the Kadzis family was surprised with a knock on their door by celebrity builder Ty Pennington. From that moment, the non-stop effort began to build a safe home for a family of nine.



(Clockwise) Chairman Bryan Desloge presents MyddeltonParker Builders, which was selected as the builder due to its reputation for giving back to the community, with a Resolution declaring Feb. 24, 2009, as MyddeltonParker

Builders and Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Appreciation Day; Chairman Desloge presents the Kadzis Family with a Resolution proclaiming Feb. 28, 2009, as The Kadzis Family Appreciation Day; County Commissioners Akin Akinyemi, Jane G. Sauls, Desloge and Vice-Chair Bob Rackleff participate in "Demolition Night"; a Kadzis family member applauds upon seeing her new home; fireworks explode above the build on "Demolition Night"; and County Administrator Parwez Alam speaks to Leon County staff, builders, volunteers and the television crew at the Pep Rally.

