

Featured on TV



Prime Time



## Extreme Makeover: Home Edition



The Extreme Makeover design team is on the march and ready to begin this week's project.



Team members sneak up to the home of a deserving family to deliver their surprise "wake-up call" announcement.

by Mary Barton

If you are like 15.8 million other Americans, on Sunday nights at 8:00 o'clock you are probably tuned into ABC network's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* television program. In its third season, this show continues to be a favorite, after receiving an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Reality Program in its first season, and winning the People's Choice Award for Favorite Reality Show/Makeover and the Family Television Award for Best Alternative/Reality Program in its second season.

The program's popularity is easy to understand. Each episode brings a community of volunteers and sponsors together to change the lives, and homes, of people who are struggling to deal with the fate life has dealt them. Weekly, Ty Pennington, the design team leader, pays selected families a wake-up visit, informing them that their homes have been chosen to receive an extreme makeover. The families are sent on vacation for seven days while teams of designers and volunteers rush to redesign, or rebuild, their homes, structures that are in dire need of improvement.

Featured in recent episodes were: the White family, a pastor's widow with five children who

received a new home with heat and a working kitchen; the Teas family, who received new housing for their Camp Barnabas, a summer respite for critically and chronically ill children. The Kirkwood's got relief from a hazardous black mold that was overtaking their home, while Susan Tom, a single mother with seven adopted, severely disabled children, received a specially designed house for her children's unique needs. Each week the makeover team addresses a new challenge with overwhelming enthusiasm, bringing hope to all involved.

Despite uncooperative weather and exhausted volunteers, home transformations that usually take four months to complete are finished in one week. So far, communities have rallied to the tasks and completed the challenges on time, providing exposure to charitable endeavors and good television viewing to the public.

Marathon Coach is honored to be a sponsor of this worthwhile program and thanks the ABC network for allowing it to participate. To nominate a family who desperately needs a home makeover, please visit the show's website at: <http://abc.go.com/primetime/xtremehome/show.html> for an application. •