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Haynes Materials Participates in Extreme Home Makeover

By: Leda Quirke

OXFORD - Ever wonder how the producers of the popular ABC television program, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" manage to complete in a week's time major construction projects that normally take several months?

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Well, now you can ask Tom Haynes, president of Haynes Materials, who has some first-hand knowledge about how all that works.

As it happened, Haynes Materials, located in Seymour, Oxford, Torrington and Deep River, was approached by Gulick Associates, residential and commercial real estate developers from New Canaan who had been tapped by ABC to be the construction firm in a makeover project in Bridgeport.

The project benefits Gloria Brown, a single mother, and her three teenage children from the Bronx, who, after moving to Bridgeport, lost their home on Hollister Avenue to fire.

The family reportedly has been living in an apartment and is still paying down the mortgage on the damaged house, which is located across the street from McKinley School.

With the help of contractors solicited, some of them on the web, Gulick Associates was set last week to demolish the damaged building and construct a new 3,500-square-foot house for the Browns.

Haynes' role included contributing material and labor for the footings and foundation and also for landscaping the property. Donated materials for the latter included top soil, pavers, mulch, shrubs, plants, a fountain and a gazebo.

Haynes also offered its trucks to haul other building materials to the site.

The project began on July 27 and was expected to be completed by Wednesday, August 1.

Last Wednesday, the day before the project was set to begin, Mrs. Brown and her children were whisked off in typical makeover fashion to California. There, they would enjoy a week's respite from their recent troubles.

On Friday, July 27, Haynes trucks carrying more than 400 tons of stone and 130 cubic yards of specialty concrete headed to Bridgeport to begin creating the infrastructure of the new house.

A crew of about 40 Haynes employees was scheduled to take part in the project, Mr. Haynes said. In fact, so many people volunteered to participate, including residents of Meadowbrook Estates, Haynes' over-55 housing development on Great Hill Road, that some had to be turned away.

Mr. Haynes said that the challenge the project posed concerned the ability to compose a mixture of concrete that would dry and harden in a short period of time.

What normally takes a week needed to happen in a matter of nine hours, he noted.

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

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The foundation work was scheduled to start at 10:30 p.m. Friday night and be completed by the next morning.

To get the right mix, Mr. Haynes said his company consulted a cement company and chemical additive company.

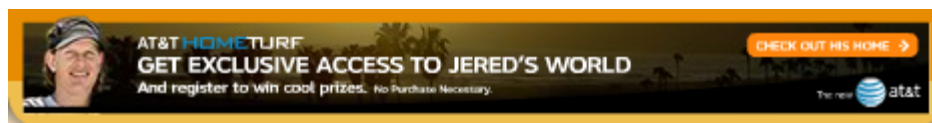
Along with the foundation for the home, Haynes also poured the concrete for a detached garage on the property.

Because Haynes was one of the first suppliers on the site, it played a significant role in ensuring the project stayed on schedule.

Asked why he thought Haynes Construction was singled out to participate in the makeover, Mr. Haynes said it was because of the company had expertise, offered complete landscaping services and had a reputation for helping people.

"When we're asked to do something we like to come forward. It just so happens that this project has gotten more publicity than some others," he said.

Mr. Haynes said the program featuring the Brown home makeover will likely air in the upcoming new season, probably in October.



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