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Local store helps build new home

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TORRINGTON - Owners of a local store were recently selected to tackle a difficult home foundation challenge and to help a Bridgeport family selected by ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" into a beautiful new home.

"Family comes first," said Tom Haynes, president of Haynes Materials on Winsted Road. "We were a family business helping a family. We were very, very proud to be able to help."

Haynes Materials, based in Seymour, began eight years ago and opened its Winsted Road store in April in addition to two other stores and five quarries in the state, Haynes said.

Gulick Association, builders for the Hollister Avenue home in Bridgeport, approached him about building a structural foundation and many other tasks during the home's makeover, Haynes said.

"They needed someone to pour a special foundation and we have that concrete expertise," he said. "We had the supplies from the store for the landscaping, gazebo, planting... and they knew about our involvement in the community. We weren't going to turn down an opportunity to help someone."

Haynes said he was challenged with coming up with the right mixture of concrete, made up of stone, sand, water, cement and an accelerant that would complete from start to finish in nine hours. A normal foundation takes about a week to do, he said.

"It was extremely complicated," Haynes said.

Haynes and his coworkers began preparing for the job "the minute we got the phone call" coming up with a special mix with the help of in-house experts and a chemical company. The original structure was demolished June 27 and construction began July 28, Haynes said.

More than 400 tons of stone, 130-plus cubic yards of specialty concrete and 14 loads of concrete were donated to the makeover, Haynes said.

The company also donated time and products with outside finishes, pavers, planting, building a gazebo, stepping stones, laying grass and even a bird bath, he said.

"The first of our trucks rolled with a police escort from Seymour to Bridgeport," Haynes said. "We were the first materials on site, just loads of stone. Mixers came in at 10:30 p.m. We finished pouring at 5:30 a.m. and backfilled by noon the next day."

In addition to dozens of employees actually working on the home, about 40 or more volunteers stepped up to do other tasks such as cleaning off the streets, Haynes said.

"The whole thing, it's a terrific landscape and the house is beautiful," Haynes said. "Not that anyone is as interested as much as we are, but the foundation came out great."

A press conference was held Wednesday where the Bridgeport family met vendors, builders and volunteers and viewed the finished product, said Pat Haynes, vice president of operations.

"Gloria Brown and her three children were all extremely gracious and they loved the house," Pat Haynes said. "They couldn't thank everybody involved enough."

Pat Haynes said the company also threw in two custom-made stone pillars outside the driveway, with the family's name and address engraved into them.

Gloria Brown could not be reached for comment Thursday.

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