



A St. James Family Gets A Much-Needed Helping

By MIKE DEVINE

What does it take to demolish, rebuild, and furnish a home to a family in need? It takes a decent and caring family! For the cast and crew of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," it took seven days, a lot of borrowed yard space, and a ton of heart.

John Vitale, a Police Officer in St. James, was planning a secure future with his wife and three sons when they realized that they soon planned to expand to accommodate their new family. But all that changed when John's wife succumbed to leukemia, leaving John with three kids, a two-toddler house, and nothing more than a dream.

Lucky, John's support system stepped in to help him bear the weight, and with the help of the wife of one of John's coworkers, the Vitale's story was brought to the attention of the producers of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." The tech-savvy team from Makeover.org opted for a more human and wholesome approach than rival reality TV series. With the help of a local home improvement company, it takes the lives of a family in great need of a helping hand, and then sets out to renovate and update down to the studs. The family is whisked away on a vacation, while the show's cast, along with dozens of eager volunteers, completely remodel the family's home from scratch. On day seven, the family returns to find a brand-new home, and a brand-new start.

For this particular show, ABC contacted Ahre Home Improvements, a remodeling company service that has been in the New York area for 55 years. Ahre has worked in construction for over 30 years, and the "Makeover" episode proves just how the show's inception, and when ABC came calling, Ahre once again answered the call for a family in need.

"The show's development process starts with a short list, of what they're considering doing," said Carl Hyman, CEO of Ahre. "Then they ask us to look at it, which jobs might be more feasible to do, so could there be any reasons why the project should not be able to be produced in time, or for whatever the reason. So we're a part of the process of [selecting candidates]."

Hyman holds a deep faith in the importance of giving back. "I mean, almost all shows have a shelf life, and very simply there's an awful lot of reality shows on TV right now, and I think this is about the most wholesome one that there is. It shows you a lot about the human spirit, and how people side up, and how people don't particularly make me feel good. As far as I'm concerned, they're going to have to come up with some different twists, they may have to totally retool and do so and so forth, if they want to stay on for many, many years. But the people involved from the get-go are a very, very creative fellow, and I say they've got a chance to stay around for quite a few

more years I don't think their time is anywhere near a year or even a year. Every s how, even St. James, has its end; so it will have its end, I mean, it's a finite thing."

When asked what "Makeover" is "future as a long-running series, Hyman responded, "I think as long as the message stays the same; because what I'm doing here, and what

firefighters' house) was the first one we did, the previous one was the Al family in Ozone Park. That was a big one, and we're trying to get ABC to give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Robert Bonerba, S-mithtown's Chief Building Official, was on-site to oversee the project and ensure the construction followed proper procedure. "Originally had a 2-bedroom, 800-sq. ft. house. They added a

front porch, so the workers, Mr. Hyman informed us, are sealed and any other information is kept top-secret until the "Wake-up Call" on Day 1. Hyman was there for the big kick-off.

Once the family has chosen, informed lips are sealed and any other information is kept top-secret until the "Wake-up Call" on Day 1. Hyman was there for the big kick-off.

John Vitale, who doesn't have an exitable type of style, was totally overwhelmed, you could just see how moved he was, honestly I was totally in tears, most everybody was in tears. The feeling you get when you know you're going to be able to really help somebody out like that is just... I can't get the words out of my mouth, but you give you a feeling in your gut and your heart, and you're so busy crying you'll probably miss some

of the things I'm saying, but when I saw the kids coming out, four, I have a two, and then I knew what I was doing.

John, the policeman, I guess he'll be alright because what he's going to do is help you know, in looking at these little kids, you see the people need help, the kids need help, and it made me feel good that we were gonna do what we're doing now."

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The

items to the family. Many times a large force in the community—businesses, celebrities, friends, neighbors, and anyone who wants to help—will give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Completing such a noble undertaking takes a lot of effort from everyone involved. By Day 4, the crew of volunteers had been working nonstop, and the volunteers braved the uncooperative elements, fatigue and exhaustion. "Duty calls, we're here," said Mark Gilmore, on-site on Day 4. "Unfortunately I had to miss yesterday as I was having a stomach virus that was up, so we had to bring in a backup before that. On Friday, I was here with these guys hauling lumber and shoveling and doing anything I could because I could pitch in. I was here through eight o'clock in the morning, and they were still here. I had some leg cramps and foot cramps for a fair amount of time. I can imagine what these guys go through being here 24/7, most of these guys

they go the entire night and two or three days without sleep, these are real iron men right here. I take my hat off to them, it's just amazing what they do for this show. There's a bond between the guys from Ahre and the cast members (from St. James and Carl and Bob) [Ahre executives], and they just put a structure together and put their heart and soul into everything, and everyone that they get to come onboard sees eye-to-eye with them."

For the final day of the build, the workers to family members to total strangers watching from the street, felt the enthusiasm radiating from the site. Watchers from the street came over to help unload lunch for the workers from a catering truck, unload drywall and lumber, and supervise in support of the volunteers. "It's a whole team effort," says Gilmore. "I've only been with the company a year now, and when you first come into the company everyone talks about the environment, the culture that they try to

be a part of, and the culture seems to reflect our seven-year trip. Ahre went to war. Doctors upon doctors of volunteers in clean EM shirts appeared on-site, a sea of blue ready to swallow up the house. Mark Gilmore, like many Ahre employees, has been a part of previous "Makeover" exploits.

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The



my company and the all the people here are doing, is really coming from the heart. When we're doing what we do, I mean, I guess my goal is to get people to help. What ABC's goal is, I would imagine. As long as the message is relevant, I think they'll reach their goal. The producer's job is to make sure it's relevant, and Tom has done a very great job up until now."

Once the family has chosen, informed lips are sealed and any other information is kept top-secret until the "Wake-up Call" on Day 1. Hyman was there for the big kick-off.

John Vitale, who doesn't have an exitable type of style, was totally overwhelmed, you could just see how moved he was, honestly I was totally in tears, most everybody was in tears. The feeling you get when you know you're going to be able to really help somebody out like that is just... I can't get the words out of my mouth, but you give you a feeling in your gut and your heart, and you're so busy crying you'll probably miss some

of the things I'm saying, but when I saw the kids coming out, four, I have a two, and then I knew what I was doing now."

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The

effort of the workers. Mr. Hyman informed us, the scene where we're doing what we do, we're also helpers, and they are raising money at a dollar, five, ten dollars at a time, for a fund for John. And by the way, there are going to be a couple of twists with this show before it's over, a couple of surprise things that I can't tell you about."

Often, the community will pitch in and help by donating money, clothes, and other

items to the family. Many times a large force in the community—businesses, celebrities, friends, neighbors, and anyone who wants to help—will give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Completing such a noble undertaking takes a lot of effort from everyone involved. By Day 4, the crew of volunteers had been working nonstop, and the volunteers braved the uncooperative elements, fatigue and exhaustion. "Duty calls, we're here," said Mark Gilmore, on-site on Day 4. "Unfortunately I had to miss yesterday as I was having a stomach virus that was up, so we had to bring in a backup before that. On Friday, I was here with these guys hauling lumber and shoveling and doing anything I could because I could pitch in. I was here through eight o'clock in the morning, and they were still here. I had some leg cramps and foot cramps for a fair amount of time. I can imagine what these guys go through being here 24/7, most of these guys

they go the entire night and two or three days without sleep, these are real iron men right here. I take my hat off to them, it's just amazing what they do for this show. There's a bond between the guys from Ahre and the cast members (from St. James and Carl and Bob) [Ahre executives], and they just put a structure together and put their heart and soul into everything, and everyone that they get to come onboard sees eye-to-eye with them."

For the final day of the build, the workers to family members to total strangers watching from the street, felt the enthusiasm radiating from the site. Watchers from the street came over to help unload lunch for the workers from a catering truck, unload drywall and lumber, and supervise in support of the volunteers. "It's a whole team effort," says Gilmore. "I've only been with the company a year now, and when you first come into the company everyone talks about the environment, the culture that they try to

be a part of, and the culture seems to reflect our seven-year trip. Ahre went to war. Doctors upon doctors of volunteers in clean EM shirts appeared on-site, a sea of blue ready to swallow up the house. Mark Gilmore, like many Ahre employees, has been a part of previous "Makeover" exploits.

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The

effort of the workers. Mr. Hyman informed us, the scene where we're doing what we do, we're also helpers, and they are raising money at a dollar, five, ten dollars at a time, for a fund for John. And by the way, there are going to be a couple of twists with this show before it's over, a couple of surprise things that I can't tell you about."

Often, the community will pitch in and help by donating money, clothes, and other

items to the family. Many times a large force in the community—businesses, celebrities, friends, neighbors, and anyone who wants to help—will give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Completing such a noble undertaking takes a lot of effort from everyone involved. By Day 4, the crew of volunteers had been working nonstop, and the volunteers braved the uncooperative elements, fatigue and exhaustion. "Duty calls, we're here," said Mark Gilmore, on-site on Day 4. "Unfortunately I had to miss yesterday as I was having a stomach virus that was up, so we had to bring in a backup before that. On Friday, I was here with these guys hauling lumber and shoveling and doing anything I could because I could pitch in. I was here through eight o'clock in the morning, and they were still here. I had some leg cramps and foot cramps for a fair amount of time. I can imagine what these guys go through being here 24/7, most of these guys

they go the entire night and two or three days without sleep, these are real iron men right here. I take my hat off to them, it's just amazing what they do for this show. There's a bond between the guys from Ahre and the cast members (from St. James and Carl and Bob) [Ahre executives], and they just put a structure together and put their heart and soul into everything, and everyone that they get to come onboard sees eye-to-eye with them."

For the final day of the build, the workers to family members to total strangers watching from the street, felt the enthusiasm radiating from the site. Watchers from the street came over to help unload lunch for the workers from a catering truck, unload drywall and lumber, and supervise in support of the volunteers. "It's a whole team effort," says Gilmore. "I've only been with the company a year now, and when you first come into the company everyone talks about the environment, the culture that they try to

be a part of, and the culture seems to reflect our seven-year trip. Ahre went to war. Doctors upon doctors of volunteers in clean EM shirts appeared on-site, a sea of blue ready to swallow up the house. Mark Gilmore, like many Ahre employees, has been a part of previous "Makeover" exploits.

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The

effort of the workers. Mr. Hyman informed us, the scene where we're doing what we do, we're also helpers, and they are raising money at a dollar, five, ten dollars at a time, for a fund for John. And by the way, there are going to be a couple of twists with this show before it's over, a couple of surprise things that I can't tell you about."

Often, the community will pitch in and help by donating money, clothes, and other

items to the family. Many times a large force in the community—businesses, celebrities, friends, neighbors, and anyone who wants to help—will give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Completing such a noble undertaking takes a lot of effort from everyone involved. By Day 4, the crew of volunteers had been working nonstop, and the volunteers braved the uncooperative elements, fatigue and exhaustion. "Duty calls, we're here," said Mark Gilmore, on-site on Day 4. "Unfortunately I had to miss yesterday as I was having a stomach virus that was up, so we had to bring in a backup before that. On Friday, I was here with these guys hauling lumber and shoveling and doing anything I could because I could pitch in. I was here through eight o'clock in the morning, and they were still here. I had some leg cramps and foot cramps for a fair amount of time. I can imagine what these guys go through being here 24/7, most of these guys

they go the entire night and two or three days without sleep, these are real iron men right here. I take my hat off to them, it's just amazing what they do for this show. There's a bond between the guys from Ahre and the cast members (from St. James and Carl and Bob) [Ahre executives], and they just put a structure together and put their heart and soul into everything, and everyone that they get to come onboard sees eye-to-eye with them."

For the final day of the build, the workers to family members to total strangers watching from the street, felt the enthusiasm radiating from the site. Watchers from the street came over to help unload lunch for the workers from a catering truck, unload drywall and lumber, and supervise in support of the volunteers. "It's a whole team effort," says Gilmore. "I've only been with the company a year now, and when you first come into the company everyone talks about the environment, the culture that they try to

be a part of, and the culture seems to reflect our seven-year trip. Ahre went to war. Doctors upon doctors of volunteers in clean EM shirts appeared on-site, a sea of blue ready to swallow up the house. Mark Gilmore, like many Ahre employees, has been a part of previous "Makeover" exploits.

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The

effort of the workers. Mr. Hyman informed us, the scene where we're doing what we do, we're also helpers, and they are raising money at a dollar, five, ten dollars at a time, for a fund for John. And by the way, there are going to be a couple of twists with this show before it's over, a couple of surprise things that I can't tell you about."

Often, the community will pitch in and help by donating money, clothes, and other

items to the family. Many times a large force in the community—businesses, celebrities, friends, neighbors, and anyone who wants to help—will give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Completing such a noble undertaking takes a lot of effort from everyone involved. By Day 4, the crew of volunteers had been working nonstop, and the volunteers braved the uncooperative elements, fatigue and exhaustion. "Duty calls, we're here," said Mark Gilmore, on-site on Day 4. "Unfortunately I had to miss yesterday as I was having a stomach virus that was up, so we had to bring in a backup before that. On Friday, I was here with these guys hauling lumber and shoveling and doing anything I could because I could pitch in. I was here through eight o'clock in the morning, and they were still here. I had some leg cramps and foot cramps for a fair amount of time. I can imagine what these guys go through being here 24/7, most of these guys

they go the entire night and two or three days without sleep, these are real iron men right here. I take my hat off to them, it's just amazing what they do for this show. There's a bond between the guys from Ahre and the cast members (from St. James and Carl and Bob) [Ahre executives], and they just put a structure together and put their heart and soul into everything, and everyone that they get to come onboard sees eye-to-eye with them."

For the final day of the build, the workers to family members to total strangers watching from the street, felt the enthusiasm radiating from the site. Watchers from the street came over to help unload lunch for the workers from a catering truck, unload drywall and lumber, and supervise in support of the volunteers. "It's a whole team effort," says Gilmore. "I've only been with the company a year now, and when you first come into the company everyone talks about the environment, the culture that they try to

be a part of, and the culture seems to reflect our seven-year trip. Ahre went to war. Doctors upon doctors of volunteers in clean EM shirts appeared on-site, a sea of blue ready to swallow up the house. Mark Gilmore, like many Ahre employees, has been a part of previous "Makeover" exploits.

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The

effort of the workers. Mr. Hyman informed us, the scene where we're doing what we do, we're also helpers, and they are raising money at a dollar, five, ten dollars at a time, for a fund for John. And by the way, there are going to be a couple of twists with this show before it's over, a couple of surprise things that I can't tell you about."

Often, the community will pitch in and help by donating money, clothes, and other

items to the family. Many times a large force in the community—businesses, celebrities, friends, neighbors, and anyone who wants to help—will give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Completing such a noble undertaking takes a lot of effort from everyone involved. By Day 4, the crew of volunteers had been working nonstop, and the volunteers braved the uncooperative elements, fatigue and exhaustion. "Duty calls, we're here," said Mark Gilmore, on-site on Day 4. "Unfortunately I had to miss yesterday as I was having a stomach virus that was up, so we had to bring in a backup before that. On Friday, I was here with these guys hauling lumber and shoveling and doing anything I could because I could pitch in. I was here through eight o'clock in the morning, and they were still here. I had some leg cramps and foot cramps for a fair amount of time. I can imagine what these guys go through being here 24/7, most of these guys

they go the entire night and two or three days without sleep, these are real iron men right here. I take my hat off to them, it's just amazing what they do for this show. There's a bond between the guys from Ahre and the cast members (from St. James and Carl and Bob) [Ahre executives], and they just put a structure together and put their heart and soul into everything, and everyone that they get to come onboard sees eye-to-eye with them."

For the final day of the build, the workers to family members to total strangers watching from the street, felt the enthusiasm radiating from the site. Watchers from the street came over to help unload lunch for the workers from a catering truck, unload drywall and lumber, and supervise in support of the volunteers. "It's a whole team effort," says Gilmore. "I've only been with the company a year now, and when you first come into the company everyone talks about the environment, the culture that they try to

be a part of, and the culture seems to reflect our seven-year trip. Ahre went to war. Doctors upon doctors of volunteers in clean EM shirts appeared on-site, a sea of blue ready to swallow up the house. Mark Gilmore, like many Ahre employees, has been a part of previous "Makeover" exploits.

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The

effort of the workers. Mr. Hyman informed us, the scene where we're doing what we do, we're also helpers, and they are raising money at a dollar, five, ten dollars at a time, for a fund for John. And by the way, there are going to be a couple of twists with this show before it's over, a couple of surprise things that I can't tell you about."

Often, the community will pitch in and help by donating money, clothes, and other

items to the family. Many times a large force in the community—businesses, celebrities, friends, neighbors, and anyone who wants to help—will give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Completing such a noble undertaking takes a lot of effort from everyone involved. By Day 4, the crew of volunteers had been working nonstop, and the volunteers braved the uncooperative elements, fatigue and exhaustion. "Duty calls, we're here," said Mark Gilmore, on-site on Day 4. "Unfortunately I had to miss yesterday as I was having a stomach virus that was up, so we had to bring in a backup before that. On Friday, I was here with these guys hauling lumber and shoveling and doing anything I could because I could pitch in. I was here through eight o'clock in the morning, and they were still here. I had some leg cramps and foot cramps for a fair amount of time. I can imagine what these guys go through being here 24/7, most of these guys

they go the entire night and two or three days without sleep, these are real iron men right here. I take my hat off to them, it's just amazing what they do for this show. There's a bond between the guys from Ahre and the cast members (from St. James and Carl and Bob) [Ahre executives], and they just put a structure together and put their heart and soul into everything, and everyone that they get to come onboard sees eye-to-eye with them."

For the final day of the build, the workers to family members to total strangers watching from the street, felt the enthusiasm radiating from the site. Watchers from the street came over to help unload lunch for the workers from a catering truck, unload drywall and lumber, and supervise in support of the volunteers. "It's a whole team effort," says Gilmore. "I've only been with the company a year now, and when you first come into the company everyone talks about the environment, the culture that they try to

be a part of, and the culture seems to reflect our seven-year trip. Ahre went to war. Doctors upon doctors of volunteers in clean EM shirts appeared on-site, a sea of blue ready to swallow up the house. Mark Gilmore, like many Ahre employees, has been a part of previous "Makeover" exploits.

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The

effort of the workers. Mr. Hyman informed us, the scene where we're doing what we do, we're also helpers, and they are raising money at a dollar, five, ten dollars at a time, for a fund for John. And by the way, there are going to be a couple of twists with this show before it's over, a couple of surprise things that I can't tell you about."

Often, the community will pitch in and help by donating money, clothes, and other

items to the family. Many times a large force in the community—businesses, celebrities, friends, neighbors, and anyone who wants to help—will give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Completing such a noble undertaking takes a lot of effort from everyone involved. By Day 4, the crew of volunteers had been working nonstop, and the volunteers braved the uncooperative elements, fatigue and exhaustion. "Duty calls, we're here," said Mark Gilmore, on-site on Day 4. "Unfortunately I had to miss yesterday as I was having a stomach virus that was up, so we had to bring in a backup before that. On Friday, I was here with these guys hauling lumber and shoveling and doing anything I could because I could pitch in. I was here through eight o'clock in the morning, and they were still here. I had some leg cramps and foot cramps for a fair amount of time. I can imagine what these guys go through being here 24/7, most of these guys

they go the entire night and two or three days without sleep, these are real iron men right here. I take my hat off to them, it's just amazing what they do for this show. There's a bond between the guys from Ahre and the cast members (from St. James and Carl and Bob) [Ahre executives], and they just put a structure together and put their heart and soul into everything, and everyone that they get to come onboard sees eye-to-eye with them."

For the final day of the build, the workers to family members to total strangers watching from the street, felt the enthusiasm radiating from the site. Watchers from the street came over to help unload lunch for the workers from a catering truck, unload drywall and lumber, and supervise in support of the volunteers. "It's a whole team effort," says Gilmore. "I've only been with the company a year now, and when you first come into the company everyone talks about the environment, the culture that they try to

be a part of, and the culture seems to reflect our seven-year trip. Ahre went to war. Doctors upon doctors of volunteers in clean EM shirts appeared on-site, a sea of blue ready to swallow up the house. Mark Gilmore, like many Ahre employees, has been a part of previous "Makeover" exploits.

"In the scene where I've been a part of, the previous one was in Queens, Ozone Park," Mark explains. "[The

effort of the workers. Mr. Hyman informed us, the scene where we're doing what we do, we're also helpers, and they are raising money at a dollar, five, ten dollars at a time, for a fund for John. And by the way, there are going to be a couple of twists with this show before it's over, a couple of surprise things that I can't tell you about."

Often, the community will pitch in and help by donating money, clothes, and other

items to the family. Many times a large force in the community—businesses, celebrities, friends, neighbors, and anyone who wants to help—will give the family an extra special gift—payments on the mortgage, cars, even space in a building for aspiring entrepreneurs. This show was no different, and although there were no celebrity spotings during the construction, it's safe to say that the Vitale's will be coming home to more than just a new house.

The actual construction process took about four days to complete, although finishing touches were still being added on Day 7. Coming in to help out, the house was not built in seven days, but the help of cast members and a few helpers. While the show's cast did their part in creating the show, the actual rebuild was handled by the volunteers and Ahre. "You wanna hear a secret? We basically did the exterior of the house," Hyman revealed. "The guys [from Ahre] did a lot of the decorating finishes, so when they say 'This is my room' and 'These are my finishing touches,' they certainly are, but what you're seeing now, for argument's sake, the basic structure and so on, that's done by us. We have a guy named Doug Cornell who put that together, and I think we did that all together, and did it on the last project we did together."

Completing such a noble undertaking takes a lot of effort from everyone involved. By Day 4, the crew of volunteers had been working nonstop, and the volunteers braved the uncooperative elements, fatigue and exhaustion. "Duty calls, we're here," said Mark Gilmore, on-site on Day 4. "Unfortunately