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Sundays 8/7c on ABC

SWENSON-LEE FAMILY FACT SHEET

On September 22, 2006 the lives of Teri Lee's four children and her sister, Vicki Seliger Swenson's family changed forever. In the early morning hours, Teri Lee's ex-boyfriend, whom she had a restraining order against, broke into the family's home and fatally shot Lee and her boyfriend. The children, who lost their father in a car accident a few years before, were home at the time. Lee's then 11-year old daughter witnessed the shootings. Police found her two young sons cowering in a closet. While the children were not physically harmed, they were left with deep emotional scars that will likely last a lifetime.

Lee's sister, Vicki Seliger Swenson and her husband, Erik, both school teachers, adopted the four children and brought them into their three bedroom home. With three children of their own and another on the way, the Swenson-Lee family has doubled in less than a year and is now swelling out of their house. However, that will soon change thanks to TJB Homes, Inc. and *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*.

Teri Lee did everything she could to protect herself and her family from her abusive ex-boyfriend. She got a restraining order, alerted police, neighbors and teachers of the situation. She even installed a state-of-the-art alarm system. As a result of her death, Lee's sister, Vicki Seliger Swenson has fought tirelessly to call attention to the issues facing victims of domestic violence and has helped pass legislation that would protect them from the same fate as her sister. She played a key role in getting a bill passed in the state of Minnesota that would require a picture on all restraining orders making it easier for victims to alert others what the offender looks like. Another bill she has worked on addresses domestic violence training.

A fund has been set up to help the family. Donations can be sent to the Swenson-Lee family fund care of Village Bank at 9298 Central Ave NE, Blaine, MN 55434.

QUICK FACTS:

- The Swenson-Lee's new home will be 5,600 square feet, 7 bedrooms, 5 baths
- The new house will contain a sprinkler system, state-of-the-art security system and outdoor surveillance cameras
- Cabinets, windows, fixtures and all other salvageable parts from the original home will be donated to help other families in need
- On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day (*Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief*)
- 30% of Americans say they know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband or boyfriend in the past year (*Lieberman Research Inc. Tracking Survey*)
- Studies suggest between 3.3 and 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence a year (*Carlson, Bonnie E. (1984). Children's observations of interpersonal violence.*)

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