



Extreme Makeover: Home Edition The Swenson-Lee Family
TJB Homes Building Partners and Participants



On November 25th, the long awaited segment of Extreme Makeover Home Edition, made here in the Twin Cities, will air on national TV.

Just to give you a prep view at how big this project was we've included this article with information provided by the Company that spearheaded this incredible effort and accomplishment; TJB Homes of Blaine, Minnesota.

Of special note, on that evening there will be a private screening party at Bella's in Blaine, sponsored by Bella's and Major's restaurants.

Attending will be 350 of the key contractors as well as Erik and Vicki Swenson, the beneficiaries of this massive effort.

OK! NOW FOR SOME STATS!

THE PROJECT

To build a 5600 sq ft residence to turn key and ready to occupy status in 106 hours.

Actual completion was accomplished in 99 hours - from demolition and removal of the existing structure to completion of the new residence including: detailed cleanup, interior decorating, total landscaping and complete furnishing of the home.

To put this time requirement in perspective; each hour of work performed would need to accomplish what would normally take 2 1/2 days.

Phase Completion Times:

- Demolition and hauling away the existing structure took 30 minutes using 4 back hoes (and lots of trucks).
- Excavation, pouring of the footings, poured concrete walls and pads were completed in 12 hours. The concrete needed to be poured at 7,000 lbs. PSI to provide a workable drying time of 10 minutes. This itself required the unconventional use of a special conveyor belt to move the mix, as the high pressure posed a risk of plugging up conventional delivery systems.
- Framing the structure began even before the entire footing of the home was completed and took only 16 hours for every wall, floor and roof structure.
- Plumbing, electrical wiring, and installation of HVAC mechanicals? ...10 hours
- Visualize this! Crews hanging sheetrock for every square foot of wall and ceiling space including taping, sanding, and fine finishing in just over 7 hours.
- Roofing the entire home in just under 4 hours. (Can't wait to see the pics on that)
- Exterior siding and finishing 12 hours.

These are just a few hyper speed executions needed to achieve the goal.

Understand that almost all these phases of construction were going on simultaneously and you get an idea of the extreme need for micro supervision and project management which brings us to...

THE HUMAN RESOURCES

271 separate companies provided materials and support with 1500 tradespersons including 125 framers and 160 sheetrockers. 50 painters, 30 landscapers. This was just part of a massive array of professionals donating their time for excavation, roofing, painting, siding, plumbing, electrical, cabinet installation, landscaping, concrete, heating & air systems, sprinkler and irrigation systems, exterior siding, windows and doors, trim and millwork, ceramic and flooring installation and more.

Grunt Labor:

Over 2,000 other citizens volunteered time for menial tasks like hauling away debris and serving the ongoing needs during construction. Picture 200 to 300 people working on this one structure at any given moment continuously for 99 hours.

Where the Buck Stopped:

To coordinate this many people, and to hold the work flow seamlessly together, was the responsibility of TJB Homes. To implement this they placed 9 of their high level staff on site for 5 days. These 9, in turn, shared shifts so that at least 4 of them were supervising the site around the clock. They were housed in 4 on site RV's.

Equipment: You can't build without tools and for this it needed not only bigger ones but a lot of them.

Powered by a 16 circuit 32 outlet temporary electrical distribution panel, some of the major tools in use at any given time (and most often together) included at least: 30 sawzalls / 30 air guns / 30 circular saws / 4 screw guns / 10 impact guns / 4 air compressors / 4 forklifts / 2 cranes and enough small tools to equip a hardware store.

With that many power tools going continuously for 99 hours, it may have been hard to hear. To keep everybody up to speed and in contact, the building force utilized 60 walkie talkies which were setup to 13 specialized channels dedicated to different aspects of the project.

Coordinating the ontime delivery and placement of material was critical and there was plenty of it. Just a small sample of some materials; 25,000 feet of wiring, 192 recessed lights, 12,000 linear feet of wood flooring, over 300 gallons of paint in 50 colors, 500 sheets of drywall.

Supporting the Workforce

Dozens of local businesses got into the spirit and provided what they could to feed and keep the spirit and morale high. This included: 5500 meals, 800 Chicken and Burger filets, 2000 slices of cheese, 2200 ketchup packets, 1,000 pickle spears, 275 pizzas (delivered hot) from Pizza Now in Blaine 18,000 bottles of water from Eniva Corporation, 5,000 Caribou Coffees, 200 cases of Red Bull, 10 pallets of Coca Cola, 100 lbs of marinated shrimp, 350 snow crab legs, 120 pails of cookies, 1250 mini po'bo sandwiches and 1 Zydeco Band.

Records Set

Largest Braveheart March to introduce the project to the family with over 500 Volunteers showing up to present this gift. Spectators estimated at over 15,000 cheered the workers and lent their support where they could.

This is the largest Extreme Makeover single family home to date and was also on the largest production site.

It presented the largest and most extensive landscaping exterior project which took 50 hours and included: planting 20 full size spaded trees, 90 shrubs, 396 perennials, the design and building of a water fall, rain garden, and play center, sod, shub and flower bed design and installation, paver driveway, patios, deck, hot tub and more.

It was also the first Extreme Makeover Home to have a Fire protection sprinkler system with 40 heads and 600 feet of piping, installed in 5 hours from start to a city approved pressure tested finish.

This is sure to be a show you will not want to miss and as we wait for for it to air. Let's take time to contemplate the wonderful generosity that the following businesses, their staff and personnel showed in being involved with and working together to help this one family.

"If it needs to be done, pulling together in the right spirit guarantees that it will."

For more incredible information on this historic Minnesota endeavor and lists of the supporting businesses

VISIT: TJBHOMES.COM which by the way took 300 hours to develop and had 7 million hits during the construction.