



BREAKING NEWS

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CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA FAMILY ABC's "EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION" KNOCKED ON THEIR DOOR Roanoke's Building Specialists, Inc. to Break Ground on December 6, 2005

BLACKSBURG, VA – Santa Claus came to Virginia tonight, hauling sacks of hammers and nails in place of dolls and video games. It turns out that Santa was actually designer Ty Pennington of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition", and he came to town to tell a local family that, for them, Christmas would be coming early. The well-deserving Crawford-Smith family of Blacksburg learned they had been selected from a pool of thousands of applicants by ABC to have their home completely remodeled by the show's celebrity design team. Roanoke-based Building Specialists, Inc. has been selected by ABC as the builder of choice to complete the extreme—and rapid—renovation.

"We are absolutely honored and ecstatic to have been chosen for such a worthwhile project," said Bob Fetzer president and founder of Building Specialists, Inc. "Our entire BSI team sees this as an unbeatable opportunity to give back to the community that has supported us for the past 30 years. We can't wait to get started!"

The chosen homeowner, Carol Crawford-Smith, is a single mother and dance instructor who was dealt a cruel and devastating blow five years ago when she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Once a soloist with the internationally-renowned Dance Theatre of Harlem, Crawford-Smith now painfully navigates her split level home with a walker. Though she is still the artistic director of The Center of Dance in Blacksburg, which she founded in 1994, Crawford-Smith can no longer demonstrate the dance moves she envisions. Even the short trek to and from the downtown-Blacksburg second floor dance studio has become a journey of labor and frustration. As a physically challenged mother of 2 boys, ages 12 and 9, Crawford-Smith worries about her family and business' future as her functions continue to decline.

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Building Specialists, Inc.

114 Day Avenue S.W. PO Box 1174 Roanoke, VA 24006 540.982.8200 Fax: 540.982.8500 www.bsiva.com



Each episode of ABC's Emmy-winning series is a race against the clock to completely transform an entire house—inside and out—in just one week. By compressing nearly six month's work into one week's time, designers, contractors, and hundreds of volunteers work at a frantic but passionate and enthusiastic pace to help make the family's dream a reality.

In an unusual twist, BSI has enlisted one of our nation's top architecture schools – Virginia Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)—to work with them on this special project. Fetzer, who immediately recognized the unique resources CAUS could provide as a supplement to BSI's own expert team, approached CAUS dean Paul L. Knox. Together they have established a real-world, hands-on learning experience that will bring non-traditional and advanced, researched-based methods to the build. Led by professors from the School of Architecture and Design, students have collaborated with BSI's architectural designer to create the new home. Professors from the CAUS Department of Building Construction and Virginia Tech Center for Innovation in Construction Safety and Health are ensuring the build will be efficient, and as safe as it is fast.

Demolition of the home will occur Tuesday, December 6, and five days later the design team and Building Specialists, Inc. will unveil the completely remodeled home to Crawford-Smith and her sons.

ABOUT ABC'S "EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION"

The design team for this episode of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" will feature team leader Ty Pennington, as well as Paul DiMeo, Preston Sharp, Paige Hemmis, and Daniel Kucan. The episode, called "Crawford-Smith Family", is scheduled to air during the winter of 2006.

"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. David Goldberg is the president of Endemol USA. The series is executive-produced by Tom Forman. The show airs Sundays (8:00-9:00 p.m. ET), on the ABC Television Network.

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ABOUT BUILDING SPECIALISTS, INC.

Building Specialists, Inc. (BSI) is a full-service commercial and residential general contractor, founded by its president, Bob Fetzer, in 1975. Based in Roanoke, Virginia, the company offers complete construction services of additions and renovations, as well as turn-key services for new construction. They also offer a complete design service.

For 30 years, Building Specialists has made its mission to not only construct, but to enhance the built environment and life of the surrounding community—serving, strengthening and assisting clients to carry out their own dreams and aspirations. BSI's motto, *"It's not what we build. It's how,"* aptly summarizes this design and construction philosophy, which is reflected in their work across the region. With projects as diverse as Advance Auto Parts, Excel Prosthetics, Blueberry Hill Cottages at Mountain Lake, stately residences throughout the Roanoke Valley, and the beautifully renovated Grandin Theatre, the list of satisfied clients in the region is long and distinguished. For more information on BSI, go to www.bsiva.com.

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PRESS NOTES

Media are welcome onsite for the duration of the project. Proper credentials are required for access to the site – a closed Hollywood set. All media must check-in at the media tent to receive press badges and full press kits. Daily press briefings will be held at 8 a.m. Daily releases will be distributed on-site, via email and via the internet. Interviews can be scheduled through the above media contacts.

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