

11651 St. Andrews Circle  
Blaine, MN, 55449-7056  
12 November 2009

Thomas J. Budzynski  
TJB Homes (Suite 102)  
9100 Baltimore Street N. E.  
Blaine, MN 55449

Sheriff Bob Fletcher  
Law Enforcement Center  
425 Grove Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Tom and Bob:

Thank you! And please tell everyone who was involved in the Extreme Makeover how impressed we were with the extreme professionalism, enthusiasm, and volunteerism shown throughout the Extreme Makeover event by craftsmen, deputy sheriffs, and support staff.

Judy and I were on-site on several days. We didn't really do any of the hard work – we helped with meals, moved ladders, did some landscaping, and other tasks. But we watched the work and the progress and listened throughout, and we wanted to share our impressions – and encourage you to pass them along to others as you think appropriate.

From the moment we drove into the parking/van stop area and throughout the makeover site we knew we were guarded by watchful eyes looking outward so we could feel totally safe. Your deputy drivers made eye contact with everyone as they boarded, asked with personal interest and enthusiasm what riders planned to do up there, and recounted tidbits and little stories about the great people they'd met in the neighborhood and progress on the house.

It was jaw-dropping to arrive after 30-hours and see not only the demolition debris removed, but see a house with a finished, new foundation and all the walls and roof ready for siding and shingles. Watching the tarpaper being rolled on, and covered minutes later with shingles, while windows were hoisted and installed made it look like the smooth gears of a fine watch.

But this was different. Crafts people weren't just working fast. They were working as pros – taking a measure, double-checking, and only then nailing or installing. It was obvious that they knew their trade. And obvious as well that they were continuously making certain each step was done well before moving to another task. You could see their pride in a job well done.

In the shuttle van back to the parking area, we listened. Windows installers talking about the family who would be getting the new house. Electricians laughing to recall how fast they had worked and their own amazement at the progress of others. And many others. But these were different conversations than we'd normally expect to hear – quick comments about a sports score, but longer comments and stories about who was there, how it was bringing the neighborhood together, how it was so good to help.

Building the house was a wonderful thing to do for the family. It was a major project, with complicated logistics and staging that seemed to work like dominoes in a row. Our hat is off to everyone.

We wanted to put a little spotlight not just on the obvious things people did, but also tell them that we noticed their unspoken confidence, their values and caring about others made visible by actions and not just words. It was our treat to see how they did what they did, not just the house.

Thank you for sponsoring and supporting everything about this Extreme Makeover.

Regards,

Handwritten signatures of John and Judy Fechter in cursive script.

John & Judy Fechter