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Press Contact:  
Carol Reeve, TRH board member  
[carol.reeve@gmail.com](mailto:carol.reeve@gmail.com)  
865-742-3409

**\* \*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\* \***

## **The Restoration House Honored by Extreme Makeover Home Edition**

The announcement by ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" on Tuesday that the beneficiary of its Knoxville build will be The Restoration House was met with great celebration by the supporters of the organization and the Watson family, the organization's founders.

"Although this is technically our home, it is also the heart of The Restoration House," said Daniel and Mandy Watson, co-founders of the Knoxville-based 501(c)(3) organization that supports low-income single mothers through transitional housing, team mentoring, family advocacy, financial counseling, educational opportunities and other services. The couple founded the organization in 2006, inspired by their own respective histories as children of single mothers.

Daniel and Mandy Watson and their three adopted children were whisked away by the ABC show while their existing dilapidated home is being rebuilt by volunteers from the community. "We are immeasurably honored and humbled by this gift," says Daniel, the Executive Director of The Restoration House. Adds Mandy, "We have long been fans of the show. We can't express our gratitude enough... to the show, to ABC and to the people of Knoxville for helping this become a reality. It's all very dream-like."

The Watsons' existing home is on 3.5 acres of land in West Knoxville. The property contains three residences – one main house with a small apartment above it and another one-bedroom house nearby. The two additional residences are for single mother families who are part of The Restoration House program.

The Restoration House currently provides off-site transitional housing for three other single-mother families, but the organization dreams of expansion. "The need is great," says TRH spokesperson and board member, Carol Reeve. "We receive 35 referrals per month for moms seeking a fresh start. The TRH program walks alongside these moms to help them break harmful cycles and bring restoration to their lives and the lives of their children." The two-year program aims to help mothers get into market-rate housing, with a goal toward home ownership. This is done, in part, through financial counseling (including a matched savings program), connections to educational opportunities and a team of mentors offering support and encouragement every step of the way.

Grace Construction is seeking cash and material donations to make the build possible. The show also needs additional skilled labor for the 7-day build period. For more details, visit <http://www.joinextreme.com/tnvolunteer>. Financial contributions to the build can be made at any Home Federal Bank location. More on The Restoration House is available at [www.therestorationhouse.net](http://www.therestorationhouse.net).