



SUREHANDS Lift & Care Systems

As versatile as a pair of hands.

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Tune into "Extreme Makeover:Home Edition"
Sundays 8/7c on ABC-TV



**Special 2-hour episode
airing at 7PM**

See SUREHANDS® January 16th & 17th on
ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover:Home Edition" & "How'd they do that?" episodes

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

Pine Island, New York: The latest technologies to aid the physically-challenged were used to successfully convert a residence for ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover:Home Edition." This episode of the popular Sunday evening program will be aired in a special 2-hour episode on January 16th, beginning at 7PM, and then followed the next evening by the new program "How'd they do that?"

A SUREHANDS® lift & care system was installed to help make the home ADA compliant and enable the resident to transfer and accomplish his normal activities for daily living. This multi-directional SUREHANDS® system was mounted to the ceiling connecting the bedroom to the bath. An attractive hide-away closet was designed to store the system when not in use.

Thomas Herceg, president of SUREHANDS, assisted in the installation and remarked, "It just proves that a home can be both beautiful and accessible at the same time."



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982 Route 1, Pine Island, NY 10969-1205 ♦ (800) 724-5305 ♦ (845) 258-6500 ♦ fax: (845) 258-6634
e-mail: info@surehands.com ♦ website: www.surehands.com



Recipient background:

"Anderson Family" - The bright future of a young man who was on his way to a professional basketball career was literally shot down. Now, with help from the design team from ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," some of the shine on his future as well as that of his family's is on its way to being restored

Four years ago, Rodney Anderson was on his way to the NBA and a degree in social work, thanks to a full basketball scholarship from California State University at Fullerton (CSUF). On a rare day off from practice, he came home to have dinner with his family. Afterwards, he went for a walk, the last time he would do so. Gang members approached Rodney and shot him three times, thinking he was a rival gang member, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down, with little movement in his arms.

Since the accident, it has been a constant struggle for Rodney and his family. His mother had to quit her job and his sister moved into the small, dilapidated house in order to care for Rodney, who is now 22 years old. A year to the day of his accident, his father was involved in a car accident and had to have three toes amputated. During his recovery period, the family was in dire financial need.

With assistance from the state of California and former assemblyman Carl Washington, a contractor was hired to begin work on the family home to make it more accessible for Rodney.. But the contractor never returned to complete the job and there are now gaping holes where there should be walls, leaving the house exposed to the elements and making it almost completely uninhabitable.

Currently, Rodney is restricted to two rooms in the house, which includes the dining room that has been converted into his bedroom. The three-bedroom, one-bath house, which was built in 1911 and is 1424 sq. feet, is in such bad shape that the living room ceiling may soon collapse and the floorboards can't bear the weight of Rodney's wheelchair.

Rodney is an honor student at CSUF and last year proposed to his girlfriend for the past five years. Since his accident, they haven't been able to be alone much and they miss taking long walks on the beach.

The contractors, designers and hundreds of workers, including assistance from Habitat for Humanity, will transform the family house into an ADA (Americans with Disability Act) compliant home in just seven days. Meanwhile, Rodney and his fiancée, along with his parents, sister and her three children, went on vacation to the Bahamas.

The designers in this episode are team leader Ty Pennington, Paige Hemmis, Tracy Hutson, Ed Sanders and Preston Sharp. This special 2-hour episode will air on Sunday, January 16th, at 7PM on ABC-TV with the "How'd they do that?" episode airing Monday evening, January 17th at 8PM.

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