

Concordia University Wisconsin

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“Hometown Heroes - Family Edition” To Remodel Grafton Family Home

GRAFTON, Wis. – You could say that James Kacmarcik, president of Kapco Inc., a metal stamping and fabrications operation in Grafton, is a guy with a big heart who is easily inspired.

Last spring Kapco and Concordia organized the Charitable Challenge for six groups of students at Concordia University Wisconsin. Now Kacmarcik is trying to get community members involved in a new opportunity to help others, called **“Hometown Heroes – Family Edition.”** Plus, this time he has the help of another big idea guy, Neil Willenson, a Grafton resident and founder of One Heartland (formerly Camp Heartland, a Milwaukee-based national charity for children who experience HIV/AIDS, poverty, grief and other significant life challenges worldwide).

According to Kacmarcik, “Hometown Heroes will pattern itself after popular home remodeling TV shows. It will unite area businesses and community volunteers to help renovate one special family’s home.” A family that he and Willenson were inspired

to help after hearing of their hardships during the Kapco Charitable Challenge at Concordia last spring.

“I promise this will be a special opportunity not only for the family, but anyone who decides to get involved as well,” Kacmarcik added. “I want this town, dollar by dollar, to help out this family.” At last Friday night’s Cedarburg-Grafton North Shore Conference football game, \$1,001.88 was raised after Willenson spoke about the endeavor at halftime. A similar fundraising venture at the Hartland Arrowhead-Catholic Memorial game in Hartland netted almost \$600.00.

Karen is a single mother, fighting an aggressive form of breast cancer, who works full-time as a pre-school teacher in Grafton. She is also the proud mother of triplets, Kylie, Megan and Tyler, two of whom were diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, and recently with another neuromuscular disorder called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

Megan and Tyler use wheelchairs to allow them to have mobility, but their modest, ranch home is not accessible for individuals with disabilities and the family doesn’t have the resources to renovate it.

To complete the makeover, which is anticipated to take approximately four weeks, several area corporations, including Embassy Homes, Kohler Company, New Horizon Ventures LLC, Labudde Group, One Heartland, Regency Builders, Worzella Photography, American Fireplace Distributors, Inc., Preferred Building Supply, Hallmark Building Supplies, Jomela Properties, Corian/Dupont, Dream Kitchens, Quality Landscaping, Pella Windows, Concordia University Wisconsin and The Baymont Hotel in Grafton have already stepped forward to donate materials, labor or other services as of October 20. However, many more volunteers are still needed, as are myriad building materials.

Several Concordia University Wisconsin student groups, along with members of First Immanuel Lutheran Church, Cedarburg, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Grafton, and area scout troops will be moving the family out of their home so the transformation can begin the week of October 27. During a portion of the construction process, the family will also be treated to a special getaway weekend at the Wilderness Hotel and Golf Resort, Wisconsin Dells.

“The goal of this project is to help make Karen’s home more accessible for her children so they can live more comfortably and get through each day a little easier,” noted Kacmarcik.

Individuals or businesses interesting in becoming a Hometown Hero by volunteering for this project should email their name, phone and what they can offer to hometownheroes@kapcoinc.com.

Kacmarcik hopes to have the project completed in time for Thanksgiving.

More information on the project is also available at Kapco Incorporated’s website at www.kapcoinc.com .

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