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**JEFF COOK AND MAGNUSSEN HOME
HELP EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION
BUILD A DREAM HOME FOR THE LESLIE FAMILY**

HIGH POINT, N.C., March 29, 2005 – Jeff Cook, president and CEO of Magnussen Home is used to working hard. Whether he's trudging through factories overseas or lending a hand moving furniture in the showroom, Cook is a hands-on kind of leader.

But, nothing prepared him for the rigors of rebuilding a house as a volunteer for ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, a reality TV show that constructs dream homes for deserving families. Cook, along with the *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* team and other volunteers, battled pouring rain and ankle-deep mud to face the challenge of rebuilding the Leslie family's historic yet dilapidated Louisiana home in just seven days.

"We were up at 6 a.m. each day and sometimes worked until the wee hours of the morning," Cook says. "It was an experience like no other. No matter whom you are or what you do, there's always so much to be done. We were faced with days of

torrential rain and deep, deep mud, yet the spirit of the volunteers – both building professionals and amateurs – was amazing.

“Volunteering on the show was a great way to step out of the day-to-day grind and get a new perspective on life,” he adds. “You forget about money and business, and just focus on your immediate job, which was for me, cutting dimensions, window framing and nail guns. We were all so glad to make a difference in the lives of Robin Leslie and her children.”

Robin Leslie’s story is heartbreaking. She was living an idyllic life in the fall of 2003, with a loving husband, four beautiful boys and a fulfilling career as a school guidance counselor. The family had just bought their dream home on the banks of the Mississippi River in Braithwaite, La.

Then her world changed dramatically. Just days before Christmas, her husband and oldest son died in a car crash. Leslie was left with unimaginable grief, three young children and a single salary that barely covered expenses. The historic home that she and her husband had planned to restore had become a rundown drain on the family’s resources.

Today, thanks to *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* and Magnussen Home, Leslie has a beautifully refurbished home in which to raise Spencer, 6, and twins Brent and Brandon, 3.

Not only did Cook roll up his sleeves and help with construction, the home furnishings company donated tables, desks, chairs and a bed for the Leslie family’s dream home.

“I have never seen so many people working on a project together,” Cook says. “I am thankful and honored to be part of a TV show that brings out the best in people. In fact, I would love to do it again.”

In episodes set to air Sunday, April 3 and Monday, April 4, ABC’s *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* will unveil the new home built by the show’s team with help from Magnussen Home. On Sunday, April 3, Magnussen Home will be on *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* and on Monday, April 4 they will be on *Extreme Makeover-How’d They Do That?*

Each episode of the Emmy-nominated *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* spotlights one deserving family. A team of designers, contractors and several hundred workers completely rebuild the family’s rundown house in seven days. Doing a job that would ordinarily take more than four months; the team renovates every single room – as well as the exterior and landscaping.

“There is no question that Robin’s life will never be the same; she has lost her devoted husband and precious son,” Cook says. “Helping give her the home they always dreamed of is a small way we can make her life more comfortable. We feel blessed to be part of this transformation.”

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Magnussen Home Furnishings, Inc. designs, imports, and distributes medium- and upper-medium-priced occasional tables, accent furniture and case goods across all style categories for retailers around the world. The company brings more than 20 years of experience with offshore sourcing focused on quality control of state-of-the-art technology, workmanship, finishing and timely delivery. As a result, the Magnussen

Express and Accents Express programs deliver products domestically within five working days to participating retailers in the United States and Canada. Magnussen Home licensing partners are Cristina Ferrare Home Collections, Carolyn Kinder for Magnussen Home and Biltmore Estate For Your Home by Magnussen Home.

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