

# 'Extreme' show airs just in time for Thanksgiving

## Jusst Sooup story goes national

By Ron Macarthur

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It was business as usual for Dale Dunning. Two days after her story was watched by millions on national television, she was up early dishing out soup to those in need at a soup kitchen along Route 1.

"I love it, and I can't stop; it's my calling," she said.

Dale, husband Ken and son Brooks were guests at a party Nov. 18 at the Atlantic Sands in Rehoboth Beach hosted by builders Schell Brothers to watch the much-anticipated showing of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," which featured Dunning's Jusst Sooup Ministry.

The two-hour ABC special gave viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the massive project to build the Dunnings a house, an apartment for Brooks and a large soup kitchen, all completed in about a week.

Dale said she wasn't thrilled about watching herself on TV, but she did want to see how the project came together and see who was involved. "It was so wonderful to see how many volunteers were involved and how the community came together," she said.

She was also impressed the show was able to show her husband's sensitive side. "It's a side most don't see that we do. He's such a caring, giving and sharing man," she said.

The show was designed to be for Thanksgiving but it was shot in late August, during one of the hottest weeks of the summer. But the time of the year didn't matter as thousands of volunteers joined forces with Schell

Brothers and a small army of subcontractors to build the Jusst Sooup Ranch in Coolspring.

It's a safe bet that all of those who donned the white hard hats and blue T-shirts were watching ABC the night of Nov. 18.

During the show, it became ever more apparent just how large a feat the extreme build was.

Rebecca Fluharty, a Schell Brothers designer, said the whole project had to be designed around where the Extreme Makeover bus could be placed to hide the project from the Dunning.

"We are all happy with the end result and how it blended it with the community. It's pretty amazing what was accomplished in a week," she said.

"By helping her, we are helping so many other people. It's been one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever been involved with," said Debby Coughlin, Schell Brothers director of marketing.

It was also apparent that the Jusst Sooup Ministry has touched many people.

When asked how hard the job was, Schell Brothers President Chris Schell replied: "It's pretty easy compared to what Dale does every day. This is just one week; she does it all the time," Schell said.

"This is our week to help you," he said to the Dunning as the show started.

The show contained shots of scenes from the area including downtown Lewes, The Circle in Georgetown, Rehoboth Beach, the Lewes waterfront and Canary Creek.

### Show has fair share of surprises

The show was also filled with surprises, including the announcement that \$300,000 had



RON MACARTHUR PHOTO

**THE REV. DALE DUNNING** has not let the attention surrounding a national TV show interrupt her schedule. She was up early Nov. 21 serving soup to those in need.

been raised to create an endowment to help with the costs of running the household and soup kitchen. Two crew ABC crew members - Michael Moloney and Paige Hemmis - won \$100,000 of that on a special segment of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," another ABC show.

Dale said the money is administered by a board and can only be used for soup kitchen and household expenses.

There were also two Thanksgiving dinners - one held for volunteers in the cornfield across the street from the project and another at the end of the show for the Dunning family and Dale's Little Soupers, those who she helps as part of the her ministry.

### The Dunning's love story

Show host Ty Pennington asked Dunning why she continues to get up at 2 a.m. every day to cook soup. "When you love people you can't stop," she said. "These people are not forsaken because I care."

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SHELL BROTHERS PHOTO

The Dunning's dining room contains a special piece of artwork using antique kitchen utensils spelling out "Jusst Thanks."



SHELL BROTHERS PHOTO

Ken's Den is a 50s diner-themed room just for Ken Dunning.



SHELL BROTHERS PHOTO

Dale Dunning's new commercial-type kitchen is state-of-the-art.



SHELL BROTHERS PHOTO

The Dunning's have space to spread out in their new living room.



## 'Extreme'

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As views of the Dunning's cluttered townhouse in Nassau showed, the soup kitchen had consumed their lives. "It's taken over our home," Dale said, as she gave Pennington a tour of the small townhouse.

To keep the soup kitchen running, Ken works three jobs: as a meter reader, a limousine driver and in summer he cuts grass.

"They have run out of space," Pennington said. "All the money they make goes to the soup kitchen. They can't afford anything else."

During an interview in their crowded bedroom, Pennington said the couple – married 40 years – is the embodiment of love.

Ken said his only refuge to get away from it all was to sneak away and spend time in the bathroom. "This is my room," he told Pennington with a smile. Ken also told Pennington that he liked diners but as a youth could not get served because of his race. "We had to go to the back door," he said.

Those comments spurred an idea; Ken ended up with his own room in the new house – styled after a 1950s diner, a place he said would be open to all.

It's a tradition of the show to send the family away from the location so they can be surprised when they return. Pennington had arranged what he called a "killer road trip" for the Dunning in the Extreme Makeover bus, making stops in Niagara Falls and Chicago.

### Hurricane becomes part of show

Even the best Hollywood script could not anticipate a hurricane bearing down on the build. As expected, Hurricane Irene was played up in the show. ABC crew members described their apprehension with the pending storm and worried that the entire project would be destroyed.

The night before, Pennington warned everyone to evacuate the site for their own safety. "We'll ride this out; we are not giving up," he said. The storm hit just when the build was supposed to be completed; reveal day had to be postponed.

"We've had a lot of weather scenarios, but never a Cat 4 hur-

ricane. I have a knot in my stomach," said Michael Moloney, one of the show's designers.

As it turned out, the storm was not as bad as predicted, and damage was minimal – a few trees were knocked over. "I'm stunned not more damage was done," Pennington said. "The home is still here; let's get this project done. I can't believe we weathered a hurricane. It's a Thanksgiving miracle."

### The first view of the ranch

As the Extreme Makeover bus pulled away to reveal the project, the Dunning were overcome with emotion, but they didn't realize there was more beyond the large, yellow soup kitchen. After being taken on a tour of the commercial kitchen, they were led out the door by Pennington into the courtyard of the house and apartment. "It's a ranch, honey!" Ken shouted.

He said their old townhouse never seemed like home because it was the base for the soup kitchen.

"There is a lot of burden lifted," he said. "This new home is really home now."

With tears streaming down her face, Dale said she was so

grateful. "I never thought this day would come," she said.

Dale said she would have been happy with just the kitchen. "I wanted that kitchen and that 10-burner stove so bad," she said.

"It's love that built this house;

it's love coming back to you. No one will ever forget this week," Schell said.

"I never dreamed this would happen in a million years," Dale said.

## Crew donates 'Millionaire' winnings to Jusst Soup

Jusst Sooup Ministry in Lewes is in line for a major donation thanks to the efforts of two ABC "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" crew members.

On the Nov. 17 edition of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," Paige Hemmis and Michael Moloney, who took part in the local build for the Dunning family, won \$100,000 playing for the ministry.

They announced the donation during the airing of the two-hour Thanksgiving Extreme Makeover show Nov. 18. In addition, Chris Schell, president of builders Schell Brothers, revealed on the show that another \$200,000 has been raised in the community to establish an endowment for the Dunning.



PAIGE HEMMIS and Michael Moloney compete on the TV game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

## Obituaries »

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### Kenneth Earl Ross, truck driver

Kenneth Earl Ross, 43, of Milton, formerly of Federalsburg, Md., passed away Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011, at his home. He was born Nov. 11, 1968, the son of the late Harry and Sue A. Upton Ross.

He was a graduate of Colonel Richardson High School class of 1987. He was employed as a truck driver by Perdue Farms out of Bridgeville.

He was an avid fan of Dale Earnhardt Jr. and the Baltimore Ravens.

He is survived by two sons, Cody J. Ross and Matthew R.

Ross, and a daughter, Jordan L. Ross, all of Milton; a sister, Kimberly Davis and her husband Steven of Federalsburg; two nephews, Steven Davis Jr. and Dillon Davis, both of Federalsburg; beloved friends Toby and Mickey Mansfield, Richard and Cari Stull of Federalsburg, and Holly Ross of Milton.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 26, at the Framptom Funeral Home in Federalsburg with the Rev. Charles Arnold officiating. Friends may call from noon to 1 p.m. There will be a memorial service for family and friends at a later date in Milton.

Memorial donations may be made in his memory to American Heart Association, c/o Christy Coale, 216 N. Main St., Federalsburg, MD 21632.

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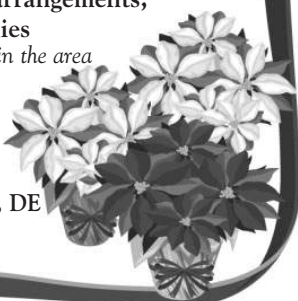
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