



January 14, 2011

Dear Labor Community:

Recently, we have been contacted by the network producers of the television show "Extreme Home Makeover" in an effort to identify a veteran who lives with childhood and or adolescent disabilities for a future episode of the Extreme Home Makeover television show. With support from Easter Seals we were able to locate a family in need currently residing in Rochelle, Illinois who continues to struggle each and every day due to the burden of living with overwhelming disabilities and the hardships they endure on a daily basis. Ken and Melinda Steichen is the candidate family that we located and that we feel desperately deserves and require special attention and consideration by the Extreme Home Makeover production company.

Mr. Ken Steichen has served in both the Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom and has two challenged children, the older of the two Steichen children has been diagnosed with Autism and the other child has been diagnosed with Augsburger Disease. While Ken was serving in Iraq he was called home due to a crippling cell disease that his wife Melinda had been stricken with which has left her incapacitated and she has been in and out of the hospital for the past two years. Currently, Melinda is wheelchair-bound.

The Steichen Family has faced many extreme hardships which have placed an enormous amount of unbearable burden on this young family. In an effort to reconstruct their home, to become more adaptive to Melinda's physical disability, Ken has made every attempt to transform their home to become wheelchair accessible and has done so to the best of his ability. However, the family is forced to reside in a dwelling that has numerous Village Ordinance violations and is deemed unsafe and is still unsuitable to address the needs of Melinda's condition and the needs that she requires for her recovery. Additionally, due to her physical disability they had to institutionalize their oldest son with Autism as Melinda can no longer care for him.

Unfortunately, Easter Seals has recently indicated to us that the Producers of Extreme Home Makeover will not be utilizing this family as recipients for an Extreme Home Makeover.

We would like to extend a helping hand to this wonderful family and are hoping to obtain much needed support from the labor community to assist them with the many needs that they require to continue to reside in a safe and warm environment.

Once again, we are asking for your assistance in coordinating projects that will help the Steichen Family during these most desperate times. If you have an interest in supporting this effort kindly contact Ms. Elizabeth Belcaster, our project coordinator at (312) 666-2750 (773) 678-7026 or via email at [embconsultants@gmail.com](mailto:embconsultants@gmail.com).

Thank you for your anticipated consideration and assistance.

Fraternally Yours,

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