



TaxCut software's got your back.
Tax pro advice. 5 free Fed e-files. Same low price.

➔ SAVE NOW



CLICK HERE

for EXCLUSIVE
post holiday deals
from local merchants

Gazette.Net

Maryland Community Newspapers Online


Now 32°
Thu 40°/27°
Fri 41°/25°
5-day forecast
Traffic

Search

Advanced Search

[Montgomery](#) |
 [Prince George's](#) |
 [Frederick](#) |
 [Sports](#) |
 [Politics](#) |
 [Business](#) |
 [Entertainment](#) |
 [Speak Out](#) |
 [Jobs](#) |
 [Autos](#) |
 [Homes](#) |
 [Classifieds](#)

[News by Community](#) |
 [Sports by Community](#)

Wednesday, Jan 28, 2009

Family surprised with home renovations

Church group did work for Germantown family with special-needs son

by Meghan Tierney | Staff Writer

[E-mail this article](#) | [Print this article](#)

More News

Multimedia:

A chance to pull out your inner rock 'n' roll star 300 layoffs expected from two Home Depot store closings in Maryland Friendship Church is removed from list of historic properties Hood College mourns loss of alumna, leader in crash Ban on big vehicles to start in July



[Click here to see the video](#)

When the Lon family returned to their Germantown home Sunday after a week in a hotel, they expected to find a rehabbed bathroom and laundry room, maybe a fresh coat of paint on the walls. Instead, they walked into a whole new house and a new way of life.

The Waterboyz for Jesus, a men's service group that draws its 150 members from churches in Montgomery and Frederick counties, completed more than \$20,000 in renovations at the Lons' home. The improvements will help the family of seven care for son Christian, 13, who has Hunter syndrome, a rare progressive genetic disease in which the body is unable produce a certain enzyme. Life expectancy for severe cases such as Christian's ranges between 10 and 20 years, according to the National Institutes of Health's Web site.

"This [project] started out as something big and unmanageable and turned into something enormous and manageable," Greg Lueck, one of the project managers, said Thursday as the crew replaced carpets with hardwood floors and repainted the walls. "It's just amazing how people prioritize to get this commitment done before their other priorities."

A coworker of Christian's mother Maureen Lon at Damascus Community Preschool who knew about the Waterboyz told the group about the

family, according to organizer Paul Foss. They met with the family about a month ago and asked them to create a wish list, which included a sit-down bathtub for Christian, who can be severely injured in a fall, and a washing machine and dryer. Christian, who has the mental age of a 1-year-old, is incontinent, so the family does many loads of laundry.

"She adores him, she just loves that little boy," Connie Hicks, the



Charles E. Shoemaker/The Gazette
Jackie Lon, 20, of Germantown hugs her grandmother, Elizabeth Hefron of Silver Spring after arriving at her newly renovated home on Sunday.



THIS
WEEKEND

Find out where to be and what to see.

Search right this second

Gazette.Net

THIS WEEKEND

Find out where to be and what to see.

Search Gazette.Net's
NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDAR
right this second. [GO](#)

FEATURED JOBS

RN FAMILY PRACTICE
F/T at Andrews AFB, MD. Min. 2yrs exp. Send Resumes by Email to: [More](#)

Senior Program Manager
COME JOIN OUR TEAM! Maden Technologies is located in Arlington, VA [More](#)

Human Services Target
Community & Educational Services, Inc. is currently hiring Community [More](#)

TOP JOBS

* [Little just south of the best OB/GYN's More](#)

RN FAMILY PRACTICE
F/T at Andrews AFB, MD. Min. 2yrs exp. Send Resumes by Email to: [More](#)

Advertising Sales Consultants
[More](#)

SUMMER CAMPS GUIDE

White Flint Camps Expo info, directory of camps, [more](#) ...

SEARCH DIRECTORIES

Search all directories or pick a category below to search now

Categories

- Pick One
- Childcare Assistance
- Childcare Wanted
- Convalescent Home
- Day Camps

[SEARCH](#)

Place a classifieds ad now

WEEKLY SPECIALS

GAITH FAMILY Looking For Early morning & afternoon childcare 3 days... [More](#)

Debbie Gerrity Music Studio Piano * Organ * Keyboard Private Lessons For... [More](#)

ENGLISH CLASSES Learn English Through: relationships, conversation, reading... [More](#)

[See All Featured Ads](#)

preschool's director, said of Maureen Lon on Sunday. "It's just so neat to see someone who so deserves it to get something like this."

While the group started planning for the bathroom and laundry room, they also distributed the rest of the family's wish list, which included replacing torn and worn carpets and old furniture. Donations poured in, and the project became much larger.

Supplies and items such as appliances were provided free or at cost, including two sets of furniture (the spare set will likely go to a rescue mission). Many volunteers had experience in construction, plumbing and electrical work, and about 200 people helped with the renovations.

About 50 people lined the street in front of the Lons' house on Sunday as the donated limousine pulled up, Christian's wheelchair carefully folded on the passenger's seat. They exited to a round of cheers, and the group lowered their heads in prayer to bless the family and their home.

"I'm speechless. They've needed this for so long," said the children's grandmother Betty Heffron as friends, neighbors and members of the Waterboyz checked out the renovations. "It's such a blessing. God is good."

The three boys — Christian, Anthony, 11, and Patrick, 9 — now share a room in the basement, also outfitted with a living room and a kitchenette in a new room built in half of the two-car garage so Christian never has to risk injury going up the stairs. Daughters Jackie, 20, and Ashley, 14, have their own rooms.

"It's beyond anything I could imagine," Tony Lon said. Christian is undergoing a new enzyme replacement therapy that requires weekly hospital visit, and the family hopes to be able to do the treatments at home. "At one point we were concerned because we didn't have the set up or the space," he said, looking around the house.

Watch online

See Waterboyz for Jesus working on a home makeover for the Lon family of Germantown. Watch the video at www.gazette.net/video.

Office Space for Lease
NEW HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS CENTER
 6475-95 New Hampshire Avenue
 Hyattsville, Maryland
 On-Site Leasing Office
 301-270-4400



Features

- Free surface & covered parking at 3.5 spaces per 1,000 s.f. leased
- Conveniently located on-half mile from DC
- Takoma park Red Line & Prince George's Plaza Green Line nearby
- Come join our ever expanding facilities
- Close to several major area hospitals
- Executive offices & suites from 325 to 12,000 s.f.
- Flexible lease terms & competitive rent
- All Brokers Welcome



For more information
 Leslie Lloyd-Homes
 lhomes@blakereal.com
 301.270.4400

RESOURCES

About us

Advertise

Contact us

Gazette jobs

Nonprofits

Montgomery

Frederick

Prince George's