

## Local homebuilders give back to military families

By Sarah A. Reid  
Staff writer

**EASTOVER** - A Fayetteville military family has a new home thanks to nearly two dozen local companies that built it for no profit.

Chelle and Steven Brewer and their two children - Lorelei, 4, and Cavan, 7 - stood at the front door Wednesday and beamed as one official after another welcomed them into their 1,921-square-foot home.

"Because of you guys, you are giving us the ability to own a home that we otherwise would not have," Chelle Brewer said.

Ralph Huff, the owner of H&H Homes, heard about the Brewers about a year ago. Lorelei is missing half her heart and suffers from 14 other medical problems, her mother said. She needed to be closer to her doctors at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

Huff donated a \$41,000 lot in the Stone Creek subdivision off Murphy Road, and he organized a group of more than 20 contractors to build the home at cost.

The home is worth about \$210,000, Huff said.

"We give all that we have to support our military because they give all that they have to support us," Huff said.

Chelle Brewer was named the 2008 Military Spouse of the Year by Military Spouse Magazine. Her husband, Steven, is a soldier in the 18th Fires Brigade. They moved from base housing into their new, two-story home last week.

The house has brown siding and maroon shutters. A stone veneer covers a wall near the front door, and the backyard is enclosed by a high privacy fence.

"This changes people's lives," Chelle Brewer said about the house. "I am able to do my job better now. I am able to support Lorelei's health needs better now."

Because of Lorelei's medical needs, the home was built with a few special modifications, said Greg West, chief of staff of H&H Homes. Extra electrical outlets were installed throughout the house so the family could easily plug in Lorelei's oxygen devices. A small shed in the backyard can house her jumbo-size oxygen tanks, and special doors were installed in certain areas to keep Lorelei and her oxygen devices away from ignition sources.

Those modifications may help a disabled toddler from China whom the Brewers want to adopt. The child has severe scoliosis and a tumor on his back, Chelle Brewer said.

The Brewers have been outspoken advocates for special needs children. After Hurricane Katrina, Chelle Brewer called major corporations and pleaded for resources after she saw a mother begging on television for medicine for a child who had received a transplant.

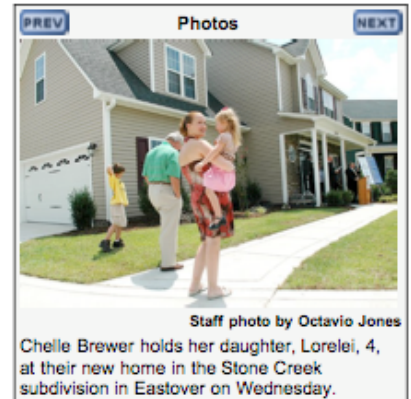
"I was like, well, that would be Lorelei," she said. "She would die."

Chelle Brewer grabbed a phone book and started calling. Two companies donated jets, another donated medical equipment, and doctors donated time and services.

"I even had a family that was moving out of their old home to a new home and they gave their old home to one of the families," she said. "I didn't say, 'Can you help?' I said, 'How can you help?'"

Chelle Brewer said she helped move 23 children out of New Orleans, and she is now trying to get medical care for two children in Ethiopia and one in India.

"I don't find it that difficult," Chelle Brewer said. "It's a kid. They are going to die if you don't help me. Help me."



Staff photo by Octavio Jones  
Chelle Brewer holds her daughter, Lorelei, 4, at their new home in the Stone Creek subdivision in Eastover on Wednesday.