

A Family Tradition of CARING



A Life Changed: A Caring Mother's Story

Sadie Holmes, a single mother of five children aged nine to sixteen years, is a recovering drug addict who received an outpouring of support from her community when she began to make a new start. The generosity shown to Sadie and her family nearly a decade ago during her time of need led her to establish her own non-profit organization, Sadie Holmes Help Service, Inc. The Help Service collects clothing, food and furniture to distribute to people in need of help in South Seminole County.

Holmes, who has been drug free since 1999, had to move her family from their home to a rented apartment in 2003 to make room for the donations being given to the non-profit. The home they vacated was severely damaged by Hurricane Charley in 2004, and without enough money or time to fix it, they lost their insurance. The house was then further damaged by an electrical fire in August 2005. Despite a lack of insurance, no means to fix the house, and with rent to pay and a family to care for, Sadie has continued to run the non-profit out of the damaged house while leasing a separate apartment for her family to live in.

"Families Helping Families" described the theme of the door-knock celebration for the Holmes' family when the design team from ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and nationally respected residential builder Mercedes Homes showed up on their doorstep to announce that they had been chosen from thousands of applicants to receive a brand new home and operations building for their non-profit assistance center. In typical "Extreme" fashion, the new home will be constructed in only 106 hours. It will include Mercedes Homes' innovative hurricane-resistant features and building methods, ensuring that the next hurricane to make its way into Central Florida will not interrupt the lives of the Holmes' family or the lives of those members of the community served by Sadie's non-profit.

