



# Beyond the Show Home

Many triangle residents know Preferred Flooring for their work with some of the area's top custom builders....John Baldwin, Rex Bost, Legacy Custom Homes and Ammons Building Company to name a few. But their relationship with these companies goes beyond their work with the New Homes and Ideas Dream Home project.

Partners Tricia Burchette & Kim Miller share a love of the triangle and the home building industry. After 10 years of owning their own flooring business they can provide a homeowner with helpful information on the latest trends or recognize the correct installation for a unique product.

"There are so many options available right now," says Miller. "When selecting flooring for any home you have to look at the style of house, the homeowners' lifestyle and the builder's budget." The flooring for this year's NHI Dream Home, The Baldwin Manor presented its own unique challenges. In addition to the usual considerations in selecting the right products for a home, Tricia Burchette set out to get everything donated, hardwoods, tile, labor, anything and anyone who Preferred Flooring could stand behind for a warranty.

"We were so amazed by the response. Company after company committed to the Dream Home project, helping us to raise approximately \$18,000 to fight blood cancers," says Burchette.

Matching the right products & donations to the unique characteristics of the Baldwin Manor was the easy part. "When we spoke to Jennifer from JJ Hayes, about the project they suggested we use the hand scrapped hardwoods," says Miller "The Old World charm of this brand new product provides a warm, inviting touch to the magnificent foyer."

The indoor sports area located on the third floor of the Baldwin Manor was also a unique challenge. "The builder, John Baldwin, wanted a floor kids could roller blade on but that still provided a great surface for a game of hoops, and would pass

BY THERESA GANNON  
PHOTOS BY RAY STRAWBRIDGE



the test of time." Miller continued. "I spoke with Ed Wells, who put the finishing touches to the hardwood, about installing maple hardwoods with a gymnasium finish. The final product will last a lifetime...so the only thing the new home owner will have to worry about is how to keep up with the names of all the neighborhood kids who will want to come over when it rains," said Miller.

At the Black Tie event held at Wakefield to celebrate the success of this project, Preferred Flooring was recognized by the NHI Dream Home project for their dedication to finding a cure for blood related cancers. "After we received our award, some of the builders who have worked with us over the years on this project, congratulated us. But it's not about the

awards or the recognition, don't get me wrong, we are honored they thought of us. At the end of the day it's about giving back" says Miller. "Both of our families have been touched by cancers." Interjects Burchette, "The NHI Dream Home project allows us to help families who are experiencing the pain of cancer treatments, while working for good quality builders and doing what we do best."

These days, flooring options may be as varied as the personalities buying the homes. But one thing is for certain...with this year's NHI Dream Home, Preferred Flooring took it beyond the show home and straight to their hearts. ■

TERESA GANNON IS A FREELANCE WRITER IN RALEIGH, NC.

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