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News Release

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HARLEYSVILLE INSURANCE AND CARR & HYDE, INC. GIVE FREE INSURANCE TO VIRGINIA SOLDIER & FAMILY FEATURED ON ‘EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION’

HARLEYSVILLE, PA—As Michael Lucas continues to serve his country in Iraq, his family now has a home they can call their own—and the peace of mind that comes from knowing that the property is fully protected. That’s because Harleysville Insurance, a regional property/casualty insurer based in southeastern Pennsylvania, is providing a free one-year homeowners policy for the Lucas family, through Carr & Hyde, Inc., an independent insurance agency located in Warrenton, Va.

Lucas, who has been in Iraq since September 2007 with the Virginia National Guard, had started building a home on the family’s 3.7 acre lot in Rice, Va., but his handiwork was cut short by his overseas deployment. In the meantime, his wife, Jean, a “stay-at-home-mom” who is “home-schooling” the couple’s two sons—Michael Henry, 12, and Joseph, 6—had been renting a home too small for the growing boys. (Joseph also has autism spectrum disorder—and special needs of his own.)

Now, the Lucas family lives in a three-bedroom home modeled after the “Chatham House,” a pre-Civil War home that once stood on the property. The house, originally begun by Michael Lucas, was completed for “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” and revealed to a national audience on Sunday, Mar. 2.

“It was so nice of Harleysville to provide us with homeowners insurance,” observes Jean Lucas. “We’ve had so many other details to worry about, so it’s good to know we’re insured by a company that has such a good reputation.”

In addition to being insured for its replacement cost value, the Lucas home is also protected by Harleysville’s SignatureSM endorsement—which provides broadened insurance coverage and policy features.

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, the Lucas family received a visit from their new insurers. In attendance from Carr & Hyde were Wayne Eastham, president; Tab Vollrath, vice president; and Linda Lee, life and health specialist (who is also Jean’s mother). Harleysville was represented by Kevin Glancy, Richmond branch resident vice president, and Brenda Adkins, personal lines territory manager.

“It was a very heartwarming get-together,” explains Eastham. “Because Jean’s mother, Linda, works here in our agency, we’ve had a special interest in this project and it’s been fascinating for us to watch the home being built. This young family has faced a lot of adversity—and they’ve done extremely well.”

(more)



Free year of insurance for Virginia family featured on ‘Extreme Makeover: Home Edition’
Page two

Adkins was equally impressed. “I told Jean it’s an honor to provide insurance to someone who is willing to put his life on the line for their family and their country,” she notes. “She is a remarkable lady who is doing so much for her kids—all by herself.”

The Lucas family was the ninth Harleysville Insurance has helped since establishing a connection to the ABC series in 2006. The company also provided a year’s worth of free homeowners insurance to the “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” families of Jim and Gina Arena of Purdys, N.Y.; Maria and Vic Llanes of Bergenfield, N.J.; Debbie Oatman-Gaitan of Colonie, N.Y.; William and Carol Py of Philadelphia, Pa.; Erik and Vicki Swenson of Minnetonka, Minn.; Beverly Turner of Irvington, N.J.; Sarah and Lou Vitale of Athens, Vt.; and Rey and Casey Voisine of Manchester, N.H.

Harleysville Insurance is a leading regional provider of insurance products and services for small and mid-sized businesses, as well as for individuals, and ranks among the top 60 U.S. property/casualty insurance groups based on net written premiums. Harleysville was listed recently as #23 in the *InformationWeek 500*, the publication’s annual listing of the most innovative information technology organizations in the U.S., and was the highest-ranked property and casualty insurer on the 2007 list. Harleysville Mutual Insurance Company owns 53 percent of Harleysville Group Inc. (NASDAQ: HGIC), a publicly traded holding company for nine regional property/casualty insurance companies collectively rated A- (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company. Harleysville Group is a member of the NASDAQ Global Select Market, which represents the top third of all NASDAQ-listed companies and has the highest initial listing standards of any exchange in the world based on financial and liquidity requirements. Harleysville Insurance—which distributes its products exclusively through independent insurance agencies and reflects that commitment to its agency force by being a Trusted Choice[®] company partner—currently operates in 32 eastern and midwestern states. Further information can be found on the company’s Web site at www.harleysvillegroup.com.

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