

AROUND THE HOUSE

Champion Continues Community Support with "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" Window Donation



Champion Window and Patio Room Company recently had the honor of joining

ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, along with many other volunteers providing goods and services, to improve the lives of several deserving people in two cities that we serve: West Chester, Ohio (near Cincinnati) and Shrewsbury, Missouri (just outside of St. Louis).

In Shrewsbury, the Extreme Makeover crew worked on two projects. The first makeover went to the Martirez family, who needed help to make their home safer for twin boys who have extremely rare genetic conditions causing birth defects. Their small home with

narrow hallways and steep stairs was not equipped to support the boys' special needs.

The second project benefited Sam Malek, who has cerebral palsy, runs a coffee shop in St. Louis and employs differently-abled individuals. A portion of his profits go to local charities, and the support he offers his employees brings them confidence and independence. The show remodeled his coffee shop, also making it more accessible for those with special needs.

In West Chester, Extreme Makeover built a new home for the Akers family, whose two daughters suffer from Spinal Muscular Atrophy and had difficulty negotiating all of the stairs in their multi-level home.

Champion provided and installed our ColorBond® Comfort 365® Glass windows for all three projects. Special thanks goes to all of our employees who have assisted with the project including factory associates who worked on a very tight schedule to produce

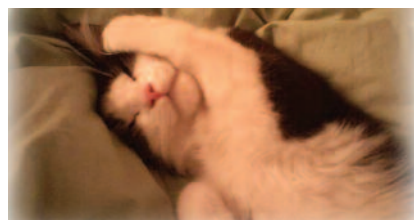
the windows on time, our installers, and others who volunteered to help with the construction.

"This is an exciting opportunity to lend a hand to this deserving family," said Don Jones, President and COO of Champion, regarding the West Chester project. "We pride ourselves on being active in the community, and for over 50 years we've been dedicated to being a good corporate citizen in whatever ways we can."

We hope the Akers and the Martirez family enjoy their new home, we wish Mr. Malek great success with his coffee shop, and we are honored to share our company's success with others in need throughout the communities we serve.



Champion now offers dog doors with their patio doors



Pet Care: TIPS FOR NEW PET OWNERS

If you welcomed a new pet into your family this past holiday season, chances are you're facing a challenge – getting into new routines, house training, helping other pets adjust to the newcomer. Here are a few tips that can help make this time joyful and triumphant.

- 1. Establish routines** and schedules right away - when to walk the dog, where the dog will sleep, where the cat's litter box will be kept, what food will be served, etc. Though flexibility is important, most pets thrive on knowing what to expect, and their owners do too.
- 2. Pet-proof your home.** Put away chemicals, put lids on trash cans, don't leave drinks and food where they may be sampled or spilled.
- 3. Provide a quiet escape for the pet.** Crates and cages are good places for dogs to enjoy some down time, and don't be surprised if your new cat

spends more time under the bed than on top of it. Let them socialize at their own pace.

- 4. Always supervise new pets** around other animals until absolutely sure they'll get along. This process may take days, weeks, or even months.

- 5. Same rules for all pets.** For maximum harmony, keep the same rules and boundaries for all pets, all the time. This will establish your leadership in the household and prevent future behavior problems.

- 6. If you haven't already, make arrangements to spay or neuter your pet.** Be a responsible owner – there

are already too many puppies and kittens and far too few good homes. Spaying or neutering will also help your pet's personality, reduce behavior problems, and keep your pet healthier.



Save Energy and Heating Costs this Winter

You already know that one of the best ways to lower your home heating bills (and cooling too, in the summer) is to install Champion products – doors, and windows with our exclusive Comfort 365® glass. It's never the wrong time of

the year to make these important improvements! But there are other ways to cut your energy bills, too.

Here is a list of the most common energy saving solutions.

- Turn off lights in rooms you're not using
- Use motion sensors on outdoor lights instead of leaving them on all night
- Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Unplug appliances – some devices can draw power even when they're turned off
- Use smaller kitchen appliances whenever possible – consider a toaster oven instead of heating up the big one
- Consider upgrading your furnace and other appliances to newer, more efficient models
- Don't run the dishwasher unless it's full
- Use cold water to wash laundry
- Add insulation in your attic, walls, and around your hot water heater
- Seal unused electrical outlets – especially on outside walls – with safety plugs
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Clean or change air filters once a month
- Avoid blocking air vents or radiators with furniture
- Replace conventional fireplaces with wood stove inserts or direct-vent gas fireplaces
- Have a "home energy audit" from your utility company

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Call Champion Today at 1-888-365-glass and ask for your Free Energy Saving Tips

WINTER FUN! FOR PUZZLE LOVERS

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| BASKETBALL | MITTENS |
| BOOTS | SCARVES |
| FIREPLACE | SHIVERING |
| FREEZING | SHOVEL |
| FROSTBITE | SKIING |
| GLOVES | SLEDDING |
| HOCKEY | SLEET |
| HOT COCOA | SNOW DAY |
| ICE SCRAPER | SNOWBALL |
| ICE SKATING | SNOWMAN |
| ICICLE | SWEATER |
| JACK FROST | VACATION |

Recipe: Vegetable Soup

When it's cold outside, a pot of delicious vegetable soup is just the perfect thing to warm up your family and lift your spirits. It's great for the grocery budget too – use up leftovers to create something new. Put the ingredients in the slow-cooker and let your soup simmer all day, filling your home with its savory aroma.

- 1 lb. cooked meat (leftover roast, ground beef, chicken, etc.)
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 3 cups mixed vegetables (frozen, canned, fresh, or leftovers)
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 5 cups beef or chicken broth (or 5 cups of water + soup base/bouillon)
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp basil or oregano
- 1 bay leaf (remove before serving)

If desired, add ½ cup of quick-cooking barley or 1 cup of egg noodles in the last 20 minutes of cooking
Makes about 8 servings.



Are You Our Next Community Champion?

Acts of kindness, getting involved, championing a cause; finding a way to make a difference can positively affect your family, a perfect stranger and your community. We are looking for customers who are champions in their community to share their stories. Please send us your story and photo via e-mail at ath@ChampionFactoryDirect.com.

We may feature you in an upcoming issue of "Around the House".

Champion Wins Award For Most Innovative Plant

Champion Window, Patio Room and Door Company has received the 2008 Crystal Achievement Award for “Most Innovative Plant” from *Window & Door*, the leading publication serving the window and door manufacturing industry. Selected by a panel of judges representing all segments of the industry, the award was presented in recognition of Champion’s production facilities that demonstrate an efficient culture, quality systems and lean implementations.

“This year’s winners reflect the industry’s willingness—and enthusiasm—to step up to the plate to meet the demands of the green building movement,” said Christina Lewellen,

senior editor for *Window & Door* and coordinator of the award program.

Window & Door is the leading trade publication serving the fenestration industry. Its readership includes over 25,000 manufacturers, distributors, and dealers of windows, doors, skylights and other fenestration products. More information about the publication can be found at www.WindowandDoor.com.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment for us. This award should give our customers additional reassurance that

through Champion’s factory-direct business model, they are receiving the highest quality products from our production facilities,” said Don Jones, President and C.O.O. of Champion.

Champion’s current plans to create a lean and waste-free manufacturing system will help us to remain competitive in an uncertain economy, while also maintaining an environmentally responsible process. Because we control every aspect of manufacturing, distribution, installation and servicing, we maintain excellent

quality control – as always, Champion remains the easiest decision in home improvement.



Keep Your New Years' Resolutions

On New Year’s Day, many people make a few promises to ourselves about things we hope to achieve or change – those little things we call “resolutions.” So, how did you do last year? Will this be the year you finally follow through with them? If you’ve had trouble keeping your resolutions in the past, it might be helpful to examine what works, and what doesn’t. Here are some tips to help you succeed:

1. Make specific goals. Instead of saying “save money,” make a plan to “put \$20 a week into your savings account.”

2. Make realistic goals. You might want to lose 40 pounds by spring break, but 10-15 is more likely.

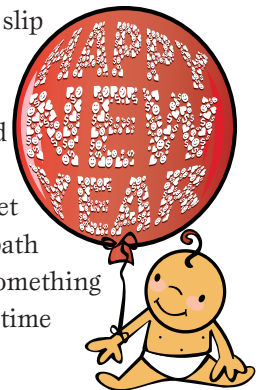
3. Keep your list short. Limit yourself to two or three important goals – maybe just one, if it’s exceptionally difficult to achieve.

4. Create a plan for each goal. If you resolve to “stick to a budget,” you’re first going to have to create that budget – there are many user friendly software packages available for your computer to help track spending.

5. Tell others your plans. By sharing your goals with other people, you’re more likely to be held accountable for what you do, and they might even help you out along that road.

6. Be flexible. If your resolution is to quit smoking and you slip up on January 5th, don’t give up – you haven’t failed, just had a setback.

7. Reward yourself. Set milestones along the path to your goal, and do something nice for yourself each time you succeed.



Top Home Improvement Projects

More than ever, homeowners are concerned about maintaining or increasing their homes’ value. In a “soft” real estate market, making the right home improvement choices can mean the difference between a house that sells within the first three months – or not at all! Even if you don’t plan to move anytime soon, improvements can help you save money on energy costs and make your home more comfortable and enjoyable. But which projects

provide the greatest returns, and which should you put on hold?

According to *Remodeling Magazine’s* 2007 report on Cost vs. Value, the best projects for recouping your investment when it comes to resale value are those improvements that expand living space and increase energy efficiency. The worst, on the other hand, were projects that create customized spaces geared to the homeowners’ lifestyles, such as a

sauna, home gym, or wine cellar. Of course, if you’re planning to stick around for a while, pleasing yourself is all that matters.

Here’s a list of *Remodeling Magazine’s* top ten projects for mid-range housing, reported in terms of recovering their expenses:

1. Deck Addition – Wood (85% cost recouped)

2. Siding Replacement (83%)

3. Kitchen Remodel (81%)

4. Window Replacement (80%)

5. Attic Bedroom Remodel (77%)

6. Bathroom Remodel (75%)

7. Two-Story Addition (74%)

8. Garage Addition (70%)

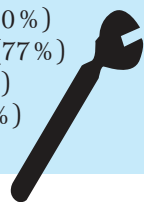
9. Master Suite Addition (69%)

10. Family Room Addition (69%)



It’s no surprise to us that Siding Replacement and Window Replacement rank right up near the top of this list – we’ve been saying that all along! Get in touch with your

local Champion dealer and find out how we can help you with these, and many other value-adding home improvements.



Source:
<http://www.remodeling.hw.net/costvsvalue/index.html>

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*The EASY choice
 is the BEST choice.*

www.ChampionFactoryDirect.com



Watch For Our New TV
 Commercials In 2009!

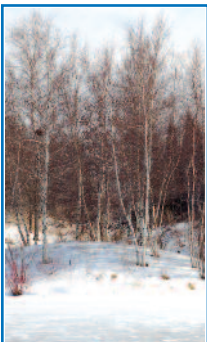
Coming Soon-

Watch For Our New Exciting Website
 Launching Early 2009



Referral Program

Are your family, friends and neighbors noticing your home's new look? If they express an interest in what you've done, please give us their name. If the referral leads to a sale, we will mail you a check for \$100.00! Refer as many people as you like. Simply complete the referral coupon and mail it to your local Champion office.



*Look
 inside for
 great
 Winter
 tips and
 stories!*

\$100 Homeowner Referral Coupon

\$100 awarded for a referral that leads to a sale

Your Contact Information

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Referral Information

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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COMMENTS _____

DATE SUBMITTED _____

