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Luxury Living

The 2005 MARCH DIMES SHOWHOUSE *at The Point*

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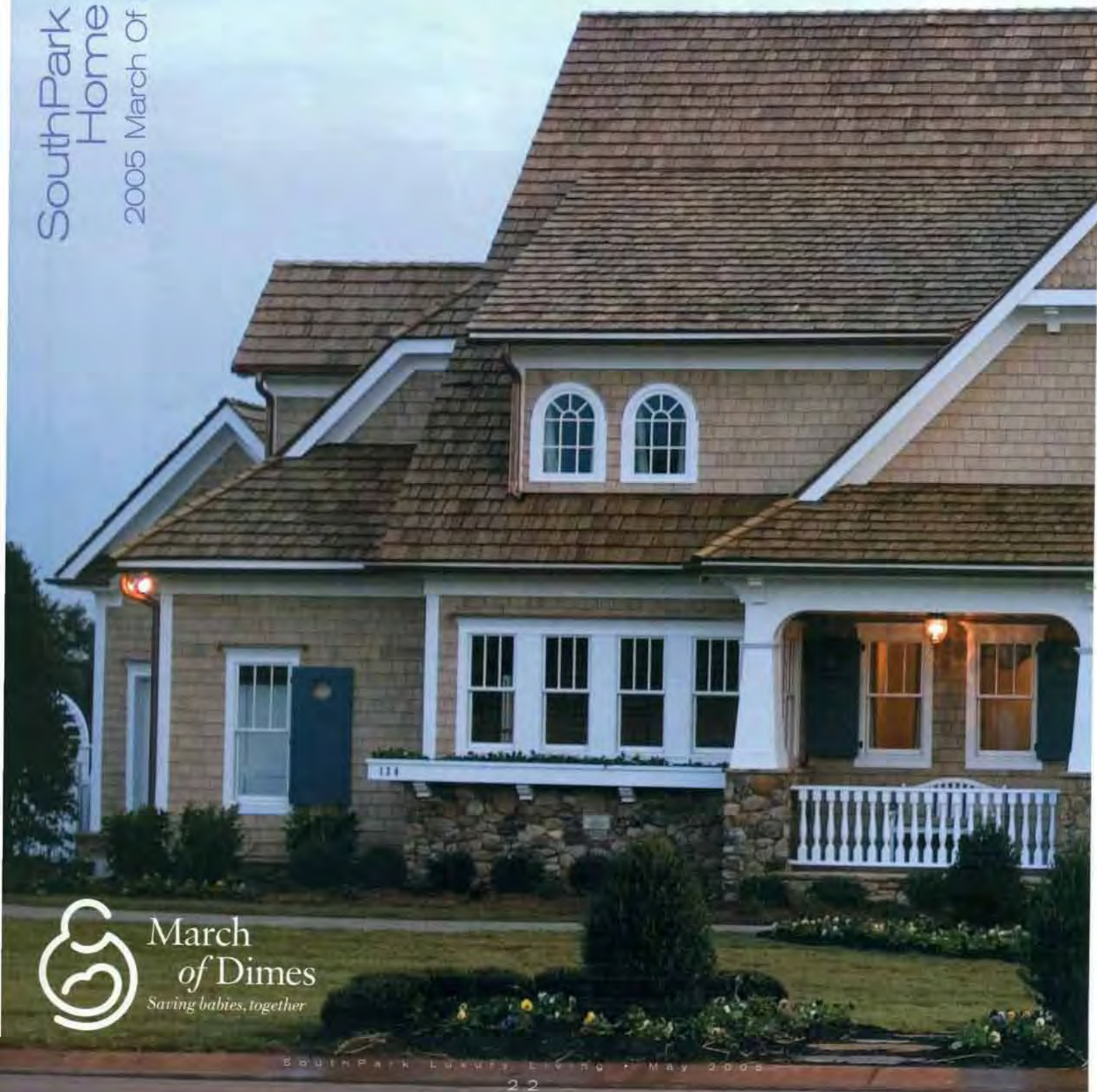
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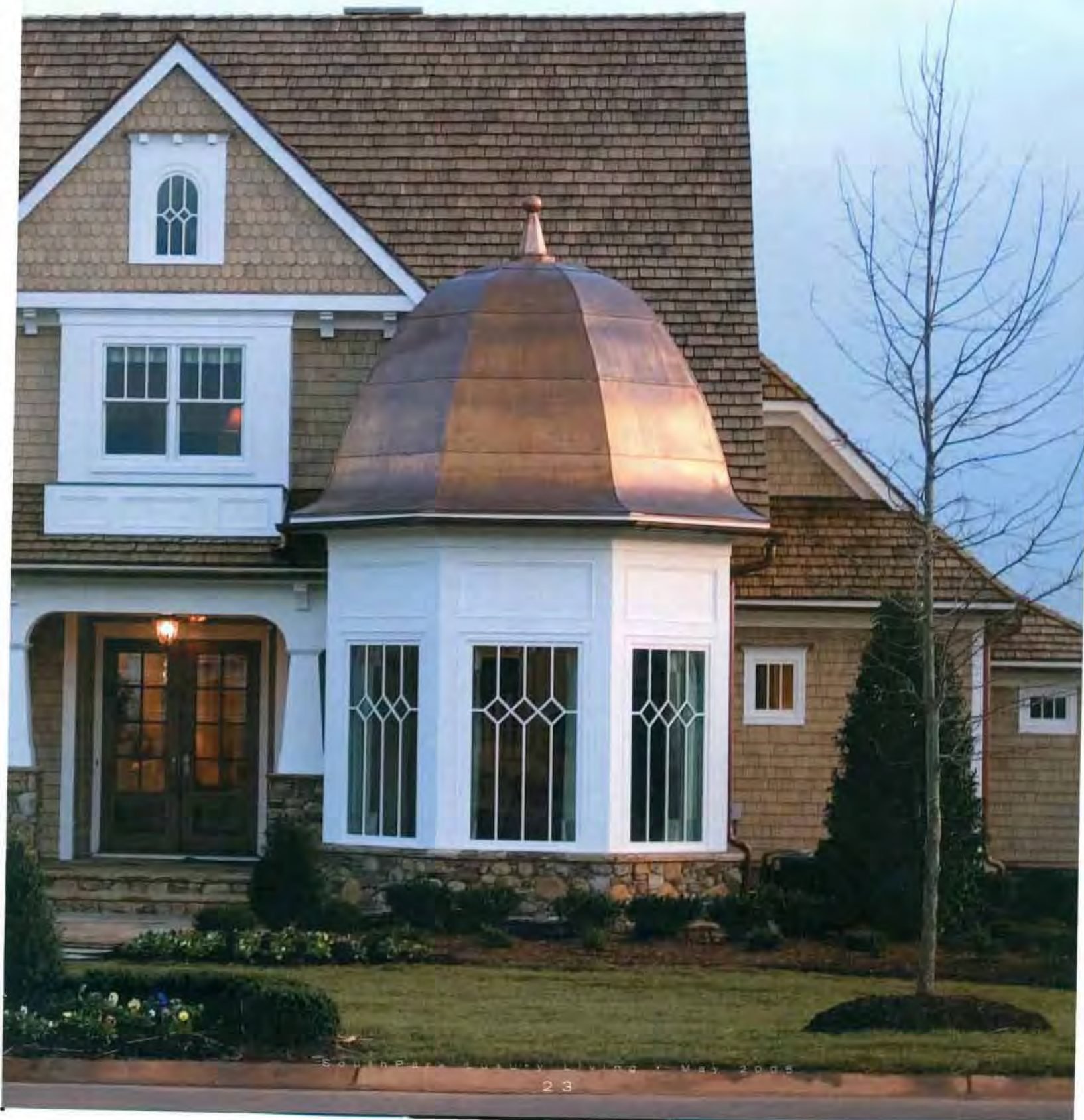
Nuance Of

March of Dimes Showhouse Offers Unparalleled Views



March
of Dimes
Saving babies, together

Nantucket





The boy's room.



The owners' bath.

The information in this section is provided by the Charlotte chapter of the March of Dimes, which is responsible for the accuracy of this material.

Everything about the 2005 March of Dimes spring showhouse suggests that it was transported straight from the cobblestone streets of Nantucket. But readers will be pleased to learn that it's actually at The Point on Lake Norman, a community inspired by the charming New England town.

The setting for this year's showhouse is as breathtaking as the home itself. Kingswood Custom Homes built the cedar shake and stone house in a section of The Point where only Nantucket architecture is permitted. Allow imagination to take over, and you will truly feel as if you've left Charlotte and traveled to the famed Massachusetts town.

"When I first saw this homesite, I knew it was perfect for a showhouse. It's one of the most elevated homesites in the community, so the views are spectacular," said Kingswood's owner Peter Leeke. Spectacular indeed — the homesite showcases both the Greg Norman golf course and the lake beyond.

While the exterior is undoubtedly Nantucket, interior designer Robbie Warren, in collaboration with Louise Leeke, wanted the inside to evoke the feel of an upscale cottage in the Hamptons. Ms. Warren paired beautiful antiques from The Antique Cupboard with new furnishings in bright, bold colors. Lamps and accessories from The Elegant Home added the perfect touch. "I wanted it to be bright and open, with a crisp, clean feel," she said.

The 4,583-square-foot home's color palette consists of only five colors — three shades of blue and two shades of yellow. While this limited palette may sound surprising, the results speak for themselves. It makes for a seamless transition from room to room ...

Kitchen's 'As Good As It Gets'

Upon entering the showhouse, rich walnut floors lead you directly into the

kitchen, the heart of the home. And this is no ordinary kitchen — it's modeled after the kitchen in the movie "As Good As It Gets." Mr. Leeke said that everything, right down to the anthracite quartz countertops, was inspired by the movie. The kitchen revolves around two oversized work islands, which make for easy meal preparation and cleanup, and the dark granite is complemented by crystal drawer pulls and a beautiful glass tile backsplash in varying shades of blue. Walker Zanger provided the countertops, tile and stone throughout the home.

Sharing the open space with the kitchen, a two-story dining hall is complete with dramatic, two-story draperies made of striped blue silk. Bringing all the colors together, a pastoral village painting works as the focal point of the room. Gabrielle Shain of the Shain Gallery personally selected pieces of original art for the main level of the showhouse.

Although the kitchen area draws you in, don't miss the study that's just off the foyer. Its location lends it a secluded feel, and the masculine décor, complemented by a coffered ceiling, makes it stately.

In the family room, the incredible views take center stage. Ms. Warren described it best when she said it's a layered view; large picture windows overlook the backyard's swimming pool and hot tub with a vanishing edge, then beyond is the 15th green and finally Lake Norman provides the grand finale.

There are other serene views as well, such as in the home's window-encircled breakfast room. This bright room promises to ease future residents into the day. One can almost envision sipping a cup of morning coffee while overlooking the side garden's trickling fountain.

Built for Entertaining

Since the Hamptons are known for social revelry, it's fitting that this showhouse was designed for an avid entertainer. Not only is the open floor plan conducive to social gatherings, but the veranda, replete with furniture from Summer Classics, expands nearly the entire length of the home. You'll have no trouble imagining the entertaining that will go on here, with a swimming pool, hot tub and flagstone cabana with a built-in grill, sink and serving

bar. This magnificent outdoor living area, paired with show-stopping views of the golf course and Lake Norman, will make any affair one to remember.

The owners' suite is thoughtfully positioned with access to the veranda, but that's not its only noteworthy feature. A curving wall of windows first captures your eye, with views of the golf course and lake. Then, your eyes are drawn upward to the vaulted ceiling with its exposed timber beams. DeWolfson Down provided the luxurious bedding in this room, as in all of the bedrooms. The company also supplied towels and bath accessories, which you'll find in the owners' bath. Upon crossing its threshold, the bath awes you with its spa-like presentation — whites seem even crisper when offset by the fabulous blue glass tile mosaic that works as a backdrop for a claw-foot tub. And since the study in the front of the home caters to a man's tastes, a sitting room off the owners' suite serves as the retreat for a lady.

Ascend to the upper level, and the whimsical nursery will catch your eye. Against a soft yellow background, the talented Charlotte Simpson-Baucom painted a touching mural of elegant swans caring for their babies. A backdrop this special requires equally special furniture, which was provided by Bellini Juvenile Designer Furniture. A colorful and playful glass chandelier lights the room. Chosen from Currey and Company through Plantation Lighting, the design of the chandelier is repeated in the bath's lighting.

Art Source and Design loaned the art for the upper level of the showhouse. And in the boy's room, you'll find the work of another contributing artist — Mr. Leeke's daughter, Kirsten. She depicted Eric Cartman from Comedy Central's "South Park" in NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson's uniform — this is racing country, after all. Creativity is further displayed in the charming design of the daybed, which is actually made from antique church pews.

A loft, overlooking the family room below, leads to the opposite end of the upper level. If you're not too distracted by the view, you'll notice the unique, built-in linen display closet. "It's a shame when people have such gorgeous linens, and they're hidden away," said Ms. Warren.

Perhaps the most elegant and femi-

nine room in the showhouse, the guest bedroom also has a fantastic view. And adjacent is the media room — a NASCAR fan's dream come true, thanks to donations from Hendrick Motorsports and Nostalgic Sports and Games. Treasures include a glass-topped tire that serves as an end table and a race car pinball game to rev up your competitive juices. A black leather sectional couch and checkerboard lighting over the wet bar complete the racing theme. But there's more ... on certain weekends, Jimmie Johnson's Lowe's car will be on display at the showhouse.

Adding splashes of color throughout the home, floral arrangements were custom-made by Allen Smith of Mayfield Manor. The arrangements, along with many of the home's accessories, are available for purchase — cash and carry — on the day of touring.

Directions To The Showhouse

Take I-77 to Exit 33. Turn west on Williamson Road. Turn left on Brawley School Road. Follow for five miles to signs leading to The Point. Once in the traffic circle, take your second right on Brawley School Road. Turn left on New Haven Drive, and the showhouse will be on your right.

From the bright colors to the antique treasures to the NASCAR memorabilia sprinkled throughout, the March of Dimes 2005 spring showhouse is a mosaic in itself — unexpected combinations that mysteriously work in harmony to create a beautiful final piece of art. Don't miss seeing it — you'll be inspired.

Calendar of Events

Saturday afternoons: Wine tastings sponsored by The Village Market & Winery.

April 15: Preview Night.

April 23: Outdoor Living seminar with cooking demonstrations sponsored by P.S.N.C. Energy.

April 30: Gardening seminar sponsored by Lowe's. Southern Living's Master Gardener Bill Slack will give a seminar at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

May 7: Mother's Day Celebration. Mothers will receive goody bags with valuable coupons.

May 14: Mothers-to-be. Goody bags with valuable coupons and educational material will be given out to mothers and mothers-to-be.

May 21: NASCAR seminar sponsored by Hendrick Motorsports.

May 28: NASCAR seminar sponsored by Hendrick Motorsports.

June 4: Interior Design and Custom Home Building seminars by Robbie Warren Interiors, Kingswood Custom Homes Inc., and Darren Young, local Charlotte artist.

June 5: Designer Sale Day. Most of the items in the house will be available for purchase.

For more information, please call (704) 377-2009.

The guest room.



The owners' suite.



THE MISSION

This year's spring showhouse at The Point was a labor of love, and its foundation is built on the mission of the March of Dimes. When you visit, you'll not only be moved by the beauty of the house, but also by the heartwarming feeling of helping raise money for a very worthy cause. All proceeds from ticket sales go to the March of Dimes, a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education and advocacy to save babies.

To address the growing problem of prematurity/low birth weight, the March of Dimes has committed to a five-year, \$75 million national prematurity research, awareness and education campaign to help families have healthier babies.

"The March of Dimes has been very successful in funding the science to develop medical treatment and intervention to help premature babies. But an increasing number of babies are born prematurely, and in 50 percent of those births, we don't know the reasons why," said Rebecca Belk, March of Dimes's state director of special events.

Christine and Tod Hargett's experience is one such example. Their two sons, Price and Jackson, were both born prematurely, and Ms. Hargett almost lost her own life in the process.

"I find myself thinking, what did I do wrong? I ate right, I exercised and saw my doctors regularly. I gave birth twice, and both times it was too early. But, then I remind myself how lucky I am to have my boys," said Ms. Hargett.

After a difficult pregnancy, Ms. Hargett had an emergency Caesarean section six-and-one-half weeks early. Price's breathing needed to be supported for only one



March
of Dimes
Saving babies, together

week. He received surfactant to aid in lung development, spent 10 days in the neonatal intensive care unit and 3 additional days in the regular nursery.

When Jackson was born, he was only five weeks early. But he had a life-threatening blood infection and respiratory distress syndrome. He received surfactant treatment for his lung development and Indocin to close a hole in his heart. He was given nitric oxide to treat persistent pulmonary hypertension, a deadly lung disorder in newborns. Jackson suffered from liver failure and endured breathing, heart and feeding problems.

"My sons were given a chance at life due in large part to advancements in research on medications used to treat premature babies — funded in part by the March of Dimes," said Ms. Hargett.

Prematurity/low birth weight is the leading cause of death in the first month of life. One in eight babies is born too soon, before 37 weeks of pregnancy. And North Carolina has one of the highest rates of preterm birth in the country and one of the nation's highest infant mortality rates.

In addition, prematurity is a major determinant of illness and disability among infants, including developmental delays, chronic respiratory problems, and vision and hearing impairment. In some cases, premature birth can be prevented, and in other cases, premature babies can be treated prior to delivery.

Partnering with the March of Dimes in the prematurity campaign are the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College

of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.

The national corporate sponsors for the prematurity campaign include Cigna HealthCare, FedEx and the Johnson & Johnson Pediatric Institute. GlaxoSmithKline is sponsoring the North Carolina prematurity campaign. In all, more than 25 professional, consumer and government organizations across the United States have stepped forward to help the March of Dimes raise awareness of this issue.

Stephanie and Erik Olson began a challenging journey when Ms. Olson learned she was pregnant with twins. The amniotic sack of one twin had been punctured or torn, and there was little chance that he would develop normally without the fluid around him.

After weeks of bed rest, Ms. Olson had an emergency Caesarean section when the twins were 25.5 weeks. Ethan and Grace, both under 2 pounds, were taken to the N.I.C.U. and given surfactant treatment.

The March of Dimes played a key role in developing surfactant treatments to aid breathing in children exhibiting RDS. This groundbreaking therapy has reduced RDS mortality by two-thirds since its introduction — and it certainly played a role in the Olson twins' survival.

"The March of Dimes applies sponsor dollars directly to research and support programs that benefit premature babies and their families. Not every premature delivery story ends like ours — we consider ourselves blessed with Ethan's and Grace's recovery. Our family is a testament to the important work of the March of Dimes," said Mr. Olson.

For more information on the March of Dimes, visit www.marchofdimes.com/northcarolina, or call the Charlotte chapter at (704) 377-2009.





The nursery.

THE DESIGNER

With a romantic style and an innovative spirit, Robbie Warren integrates classic architectural details into every home she designs. During her 15-year career, Ms. Warren has developed one of the most creative and sought-after design firms in the area. Now focusing on the architectural elements of interior design, she simplifies the daunting task of designing a home.

"Clients can be overwhelmed at the prospect of decorating an entire house," Ms. Warren says. "That's where we come in. We break it down room by room and come up with a master plan that can be implemented over time."

Ms. Warren focuses on a home's elements that make it special and individual. She then works to unify the entire house and will often pick a theme — a color, a motif, a certain style — and carry it throughout.

In this year's showhouse, Ms. Warren's vision was to evoke the upscale, yet beachy, feel of a cottage in the Hamptons. She realized this vision by using the unexpected combination of antiques and bold colors ... of Oriental rugs and colorful glass tile ... everywhere you look, the traditional is juxtaposed with the unexpected. Indeed, it's a place where the owners would feel they were on vacation, yet it's not a vacation home.

Ms. Warren and her team, consisting of Eboney Mosley, Lisa Maddox and Toni Weaver, worked diligently to make her vision of an "elegant cottage" a reality. Each piece in the home was carefully selected from companies such as The Purple Picket, The Persian Rug House and Designer Furniture Warehouse that Ms. Warren believes to be "tried and true." All the furnishings in the home are for sale through the duration of the show, and there will be a Designer Sale Day on June 5, the last day of the show.



Lisa Maddox, Kim Lybrand,
Eboney Mosley, Robbie
Warren and Toni Weaver in
the dining room

THE BUILDER

For the second year in a row, Kingswood Custom Homes is the builder of the March of Dimes spring showhouse, reflecting a strong commitment to the important cause.

"When building a house that benefits the March of Dimes, it very much touches you and what you're doing. We have a personal interest in the charity and hope to continue our partnership," said Kingswood owner Peter Leeke.

Mr. Leeke recognized Rick Hendrick for his support of the showhouse. "I met Rick at an event at his dealership, and we started talking about the March of Dimes. He offered any support needed — which is also how Lowe's got involved," said Mr. Leeke.

Kingswood's motto, "Quality to Appreciate," is the standard Mr. Leeke sets for his company and for his homes. He employs European building standards from his native England, the finest engineering, exceptional construction and meticulous craftsmanship — earning accolades from both sides of the Atlantic.

Since 1996, Mr. Leeke and his wife Louise have been building in the Charlotte region's most prestigious neighborhoods, including The Point, The Peninsula, Ballantyne Country Club, Myers Park and Stonecroft. The Lake Norman Home Builders Association recently awarded Kingswood first and second place in its

"Best of the Lake — Curb Appeal" category for two of the company's homes at The Point.

The construction of each Kingswood home compares to building an intricate mosaic, where thousands of top-quality elements are assembled by exacting craftsmen in an essentially correct order to form a perfect picture. The company builds about 20 homes each year, and each home proudly bears an inset, hand-cast date stone and crest marking the year it was created, a Kingswood Custom Homes signature.

For more information on Kingswood Homes, please visit www.kingswood-homes.com.



Peter Leeke in the media room

THE DEVELOPER

Crescent Resources L.L.C. develops upscale communities that come with a complete, unparalleled lifestyle. Through architectural controls, well-manicured entrances and common areas, desirable locations, top-notch amenities and thoughtful staffing, Crescent creates communities of proven, enduring value.

The Point on Lake Norman is one of the company's most successful country club communities to date. The community has record-breaking sales; in the past two years, The Point sold 100 new homes per year.

Homesites at The Point average one full acre, creating a remarkable feeling of space where residents can enjoy beautiful views. Like Nantucket, water is an integral part of life at The Point — most homeowners have a full or partial view of it. For those who draw their inspiration from golf views, an 18-hole golf course designed by Greg Norman is at the heart of the 1,200-acre community. Thirteen holes play along or over the lake.

The Point draws its inspiration from the charming village of Nantucket, evidenced by the cobblestone streets and traditional club facilities in a village-style setting. There's a neighborhood tavern, where members come for a bite to eat and to catch up with friends. A general store offers the convenience of buying eggs, bread, milk and wine ... without having to leave the community. The store offers staples and indulgent items, such as homemade ice cream, custom-made cakes and Starbucks coffee. The Family Activity Center features three swimming pools, six tennis courts for league play, exercise facilities and more. The Meeting House is available for private functions, and construction is under way on a Lake Club that will accommodate wedding receptions and gatherings of up to 300 people.

Homes at The Point range from the \$500's to upwards of \$4 million. For more information about "Nantucket on Norman," call a sales associate at (704) 663-3030 or visit www.pointonnorman.com.



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

THE RESIDENTIAL
DESIGN FIRM

You may not be familiar with Elite Design Group, the firm behind the 2005 March of Dimes showhouse, but you're probably familiar with the award-winning work of Principal Designer J. J. Barja. The founder of E.D.G., Mr. Barja has been designing custom homes in Charlotte's upscale neighborhoods for more than nine years. His designs can be seen in The Peninsula, NorthView Harbour, SailView, Lake Norman Estates, Stonecroft, Providence Downs South and The Point.

In 2003, Mr. Barja started his own design business comprising a dedicated, talented group of professionals. Mr. Barja continues his success as a residen-

tial designer, emphasizing his unique design style and encouraging client participation in the design process.

"The design process should be as fun for everyone as it is for me," says Mr. Barja. "We like to involve our clients in the process because, after all, it starts with their ideas."

The design concept behind this year's showhouse is family congregating and entertaining. Today, home buyers want open, informal floor plans, and it's no secret how much time people spend in their kitchens. Based on this school of thought, E.D.G. made the kitchen the heart of this home plan.

Mr. Barja and his team are sensitive to the time constraints that people

face today. To keep the design process moving, E.D.G. works collaboratively with clients through e-mail and conference calls during the plan review process. The company's flexibility and customer service has earned high praise from clients.

Elite Design Group incorporates the same design process, customer service and attention to detail in every project it undertakes, whether the plans call for 2,500 square feet or 25,000. A new home is a source of pride for every client. To be entrusted with the confidence of the client during this very personal process is a source of pride for Elite Design Group.

J. J. Barja in the study



THE SPONSORS

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 American Garage Doors — (704) 895-7432
 The Antique Cupboard — 331 Main Street, Pineville, NC 28134 (704) 889-4387
 Art Source & Design — 1950 Abbott Street, Suite 604, Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 334-9736
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 The Village Market & Winery, 10605 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28210 — (704) 341-1888
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