

Monticello Grandmother Wins New Roof Contest

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Cassi Anderson received an unexpected phone call Monday, August 18. When she hung up the telephone, she tearfully announced, as she smiled, "Grandma won the new roof!"

The situation stems from two weeks ago when the "I Need a New Roof Contest," hosted by Rowe Roofing and WCTV began, and Anderson submitted the name of her grandmother, Ruby Gray of Monticello, in the contest.

As required by the contest, Anderson wrote the story explaining why her grandmother was in immediate need of a new roof.

Anderson was beside herself and could hardly contain herself, after she heard the exciting news. "Cassi just couldn't wait to tell me the good news and she came over right after work Monday," said Gray.

"We were both crying and happy. We couldn't help it. We were just so surprised and thankful. I have never, in my entire life, won anything. I sure am thankful, number one for having grandchildren who love and respect me so much that they would go to this extreme, and for winning the new roof.

The official presentation was made Tuesday morning, Aug. 19, at Gray's home. Present during the presentation were family members Brenda Hobbs, Brittany Hobbs, Debbie Hartsfield, Demott Anderson, Cassi Anderson, Amy Evans, and Mary Lynn Anderson, and Rowe Roofing owner Rudy Rowe, and WCTV account executive Rod Morris, who assisted with coordinating the contest. The presentation was filmed for presentation on WCTV Aug. 20.

Prior to the presentation, Rowe said after receiving the votes in the contest, which ran for two weeks, the official votes were tallied. The results were: Ruby Gray 275, Charles Perry 254, and Ellis Kirkpatrick, 37, and then staff at Rowe Roofing cast their votes.

"Obviously there was no competition," said Rowe. "There was a lot of participation in the contest and we're happy that a very deserving winner got it."

During the filming, Rowe introduced himself and congratulated Gray for winning the new roof, and advising her that work would begin within the next 30-60 days.

"Thank you so much," said Gray accepting the certificate from Rowe with granddaughter Cassi close by her side. "You're my hero."

Following the filming, Rowe stated, "We've just been so blessed. We just wanted to pass it on to someone deserving in the community."

"It'll be amazing," said Gray, "No more leaks." She added that all family members were in agreement. "Roy (her recently deceased husband) is just looking down right now and smiling."

Anderson learned about the contest while watching the WCTV

evening news about a month and a half ago. All she had to do was write and submit a story about why her grandmother needed a new roof.

Contestants were published on the Rowe Roofing website, along with the submitted stories, and citizens voted for their choice of winner.

Anderson's story read: "June 28, 2008 we admitted my Granddaddy, Roy Gray into Tallahassee Memorial Hospital to get a brain scan because we thought he was in the early stages of dementia.

"Thursday, July 3 he was pronounced brain dead in the Neurological ICU at the hospital. We buried him July 4 after an agonizing decision to take him off life support. Needless to say this experience was sudden and unexpected, and my family is still in shock.

"He and my grandmother Ruby Gray, also of Monticello, had just celebrated their 62nd Wedding anniversary back in mid-June. She, as you can understand is not taking this too well.

"Granddaddy had been planning to fix the roof of their house that they have lived in since they were married, but was unable to do so financially.

"Just the other day after the funeral we were all sitting around in the living room, when it started to rain, and immediately we all had to run and grab pots, pans, buckets, etc. to put under the leaks.

"If we were not there the house would have been ruined from all the rainfall that was coming in. I wanted to submit my grandmother's house into this contest because I feel like this would really be a great help to her, and our entire family."

The family eagerly awaits the installation of the new roof, counting their blessings in the meantime.

