

Couple grateful for new roof

By Elizabeth M. Mack DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Jim and Vernece Henry are the third winners of the "I Need a New Roof" contest.

They were nominated by one of their neighbors, C.J. Marston. In her letter Marston wrote, "It would mean so much to the Henrys and their family to receive a new roof for Christmas. They truly deserve to have some light in their lives."

Rudy Rowe III, president and owner of Rowe Roofing Inc., presented the Henrys with a gift of a new roof on Christmas. The roofers went out to the home on Tuesday and Wednesday to do the work.

Angel Estep, the Henrys' daughter who lives around the corner, said the home was in need of some repair.

"It was the original roof, so it was pretty old," Estep said, adding it was more than 20 years old. "Some of the shingles were kind of curled up and we just knew that the day it was just going to have to be fixed was coming."

Rowe said each winner in the past has been deserving, but the Henrys were different. "The outpouring of the community is a testament of the many lives that have been touched by the Henrys," Rowe said. "Their story is very compelling."

It's been a struggle lately with



Rudy Rowe III, owner of Rowe Roofing, presents Jim Henry with a new roof on Christmas day. Joining Rowe in the presentation are his three sons, Carson, 5, Gavin, 3, Ashton, 1, and his wife, Kari. Jim and Vernece Henry are the third winners of the "I Need a New Roof" contest hosted by Rowe Roofing.

the Henrys. Their daughter, Pat Lee, kept a journal of everything that has happened since it all began.

Vernece Henry was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 and after having surgery, everything seemed to be fine. Five months later doctors diagnosed her with kidney cancer. They removed the affected kidney and Vernece started chemotherapy, which seemed to stop the cancer growth on her lung. She also has had a malignant brain tumor removed, Lee said. Then, in December, Vernece fractured her

left arm and lesions were found on the bone, meaning the cancer spread there.

Vernece, still fighting her battle, is now in a local rehabilitation center, where Jim visits her every day when he's not working at the Frame Shop in Governor's Square.

"It was very thoughtful of my parents' neighbor to nominate them," Estep said. "They really surprised my dad and he is very appreciative for what has been done."