



HGTV.com

## **Where Are They Now?**

### **The HGTV Dream Home Winners After 12 Years of Dreams**

It began as a dream 13 years ago. The incredible idea of giving away a custom-built, fully-furnished home was conceived by HGTV founder Ken Lowe in 1996, but no one involved in the first HGTV Dream Home Giveaway ever imagined it would one day become one of the most successful consumer promotions in cable television history.

When the sweepstakes started in 1997, it immediately captured the imagination of viewers and generated more than one million mail-in entries for the first HGTV Dream Home in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. In subsequent years, HGTV.com users helped to propel the number of entries to an astounding 41 million entries for the 2008 home in Islamorada, Florida.

For the past 12 years, the HGTV Dream Home has attracted ardent fans from around the country and from all walks of life. Many of the twelve lucky winners agree that winning the home was a life-altering experience. So would they do it again? “Absolutely!” says 2002 winner, Milton O’Bryant who walked away with the keys to the HGTV Dream Home on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and used proceeds from its sale to purchase his dream car, a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-edition Corvette for \$54,000. “Winning something that is valued at more than one million dollars has a great effect on your life.”

While most of the HGTV Dream Home winners chose to sell the home and remain in their home states with their families, Illinois native Don Cruz moved his family to Tyler, Texas to take up residence in the 2005 home for a few years. California native Tina Carlson and her family maintained their Beaufort, South Carolina 1998 HGTV Dream Home as a vacation retreat until 2005.

All the winners who chose to sell their HGTV Dream Home have used winnings to fulfill their lifelong dreams. Mary Barker was building her future retirement home in east Texas when she won the 2000 HGTV Dream Home in

-more-

Nehalem Point, Oregon and took early retirement. In 2001, Kathy Headrick, a single mother and art teacher from Kansas City, Missouri, sold the home near Camden, Maine and now spends her time traveling to buy Native American art for her school.

After winning the 2003 HGTV Dream Home in Mexico Beach, Florida, John Groszkiewicz granted his wife's wish to be a stay-at-home mom who has time to volunteer at her children's school. Kathi Nakao, a retired state worker from Sacramento, California who won the 2004 HGTV Dream Home on the coast of St. Mary's, Georgia, loved the home so much, that rather than uprooting her family to move in, she chose to sell the it and renovate her existing home to resemble the one she won. And, of course, she bought *her* dream car, a two-toned teal 1956 Chevy hot rod. Winners of the last three years' giveaways, Donald Cook of Alum Creek, West Virginia in 2006, Bob O'Neill of Johnson City, Tennessee in 2007 and Stephanie Dee of Solon, Iowa, planned to sell the homes to finance their own dreams a little closer to friends and family.

"The HGTV Dream Home Giveaway has become an eagerly anticipated annual event that is not only a symbol of viewers' aspirations, but also the perfect representation of the HGTV brand and its mission to enhance people's lives," said Jim Samples, president, HGTV. "And since 2005, it has become the ultimate reality show because viewers get to be in on the fun and excitement of the live giveaway. It truly is extraordinary."

Who will be 2009 HGTV Dream Home Winner? Watch *HGTV Dream Home Giveaway 2009* on Sunday, March 15 at 8 p.m. ET to find out whose life will change and whose dreams are on the way to coming true.

###

Contact:

Emily Yarborough, HGTV  
865-560-4643, [eyarborough@hgtv.com](mailto:eyarborough@hgtv.com)

Eileen Campion

Dera, Roslan & Campion Public Relations  
212-966-4600 / [Eileen@derapr.com](mailto:Eileen@derapr.com)