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## Lee mom moves into dream home

By [Dick Hogan](#)

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Rosemary Johnson moved into the home of her dreams today — in the exact same place as her old, rundown place with low water pressure.

That's because the nonprofit agency Builders Care spent the last week tearing the Dunbar house down to nothing but four walls and replacing the roof and interior with what amounted to a brand-new place to live for Johnson, 66, and her two adult sons with disabilities.

"Oh, water!" Johnson exclaimed on going into the house and briefly running the kitchen sink. "Let me see that again!"

Running water was no small thing: before the renovation, it took her three hours to do a load of laundry.

Builders Care, the nonprofit arm of the Lee Building Industry Association, did the extreme home makeover with donated materials and volunteer subcontractors led by general contractor Engle Homes.

The work would have cost about \$100,000, said Michael Reitmann, executive vice president of the association.

A renovation like this changes the recipient's life, said Michael English, who last year became the first recipient of a Builders Care project and attended today's homecoming for Johnson. English, who lost the lower half of his body because of surgeries as a result of a 1975 motorcycle accident, is now much better able to get around his Pine Island house.

"To be that happy, to be able to enjoy your weekends, that's so great," he said.

Johnson said her new home has already lifted her spirits.

"I'm going to pray I live a long time so I can stay in this house," she said.



*Marc Beaudin/news-press.com*

Holding her granddaughter Dynasty Johnson, 1, Rosemary Johnson hugs Cheryl Zager, left, of Lifestyle Interiors, Thursday during Johnson's unveiling of her new home. Johnson's daughter Princess is on the right.

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