



Meet the Rosenows!

by Nancy Admiraal

There is a children's story about a wife who complained to her husband that their house was too small, so, in order to make her happy, he set about making their house bigger. Day by day he invited one farm animal at a time to come into the house to live with them. Chickens, a cow, a horse, the barn cats, and a dog all made themselves at home until one day the husband sent them all back outside. "See," he said, "the house is bigger now, isn't it?"

For Scott and Kathy Rosenow of Fairfield Twp, who have been adding adopted special needs children to their four biological children since 1998, this 2,100 square foot house is not any bigger than the day they moved in. Except for three grown children who already moved out, no one is planning to kick the rest of these 15 kids out for a long time, or maybe ever. Plans are in place for an addition, but more funding is required to complete the project. What is it like to live a day in this packed house?



What is the Rosenow Home Project?

Many friends, supporters and church family of the Rosenows are building an expansion of their existing home in support of their children as they grow.

Our hope is that, like us, you are moved to do what you can to support this special family. If you would like to join this effort in any way, please contact us.

Mark Shaw,
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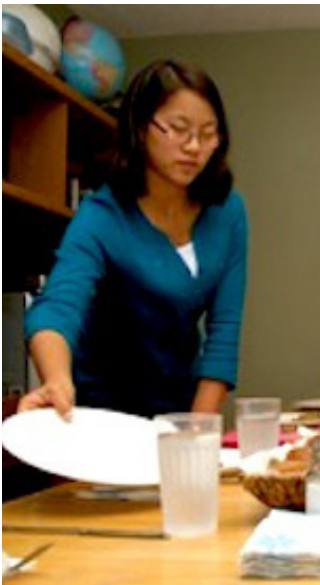
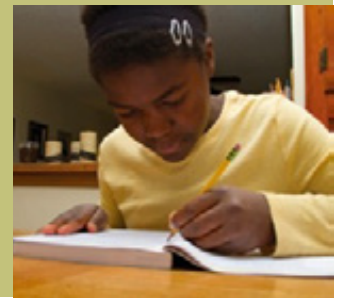
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A Day in the Life



The alarm goes off at 5 a.m. for Scott and Kathy who make personal devotional time and exercise their first priorities of the day. Kathy has a special chair in their bedroom set aside for her quiet time and takes the dog for a walk. Scott goes to his “office,” which is really just one end of the couch in the family room, to read his Bible and pray. Then he works out with weights and a treadmill in a little space next to the hot water heater down the basement.

It’s a good thing they get up so early to be alone because once the family wakes up, they are totally devoted to feeding, teaching, and caring for the physical needs of their children, as well as managing The Shepherd’s Crook, an adoption ministry for special needs orphans.

The first seven children, Erin, Meghan, Nathan, Robyn, Colin, Madlin, and Stephen, typically rise at 7. Since there are just two showers in the house and Kathy

is using her master bathroom at that time, the children rotate one by one in and out of the remaining shower while the others do their devotions. The youngest eight children, Carlin, Caelyn, Kathryn, Braedan, Ian, Ethan, Shannen, and Owen, wake up at 7:30, but stay in their rooms reading. Meanwhile, Scott prepares breakfast with help from some older kids. Breakfast often consists of three dozen eggs and two loaves of bread with orange juice. Since the Rosenows kept tripping the kitchen circuit breakers, they now use extension cords to plug their kitchen appliances in the nearest half bathroom. Scott closes breakfast with devotions—standing up. There’s not enough room for him at the table.

When breakfast is over, everything kicks into high gear. I don’t just mean the computers, vacuum, dishwasher, washer and dryer. The overlapping needs of homeschooling, bowel irrigations and catheters for Caelyn and Owen, seizure meds for Kathryn, special hydration requirements for Caelyn, at home physical therapy routines for Carlin, Kathryn and Owen, remind me of the spinning ropes in a double dutch jump rope routine. Recently, it took Kathy three hours to

A Day in the Life (continued)



schedule 9 eye exams and 14 physicals. Now imagine how long it took to actually keep those appointments. Kathy concedes that, “This has been our worst year of sustained, on-going medical issues.” How do they get it all done?

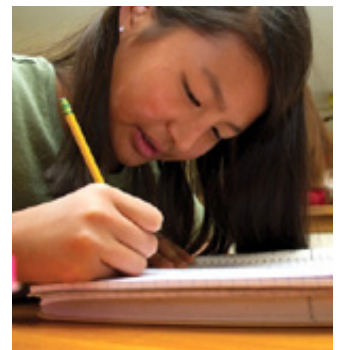
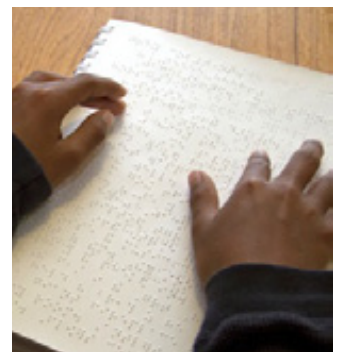
Scott and Kathy credit friends who volunteer time to provide food and others who help with home maintenance, but Kathy also highlights the role her children play. “They never even question helping each other. You don’t even have to tell them,” says Kathy. “A lot of it is a large family thing. We made this decision: “This will always be a safe place, but you have a responsibility to give that to everyone else.”

More space won’t eliminate the whirl of activity, but more showers would mean a shorter preparation time in the morning for the kids. More bedrooms would allow Kathryn the extra sleep she needs for her rare seizure disorder. More toilets would mean that Caelyn and Owen could have a special place to take care of their bowel and bladder issues so others don’t have to wait. Apparently, wheelchairs, crutches, and physical therapy equipment take up many random spaces in the home, even making it difficult for some of the kids to reach their

clothes. Perhaps Scott could move from his couch office to a desk and chair. Best of all, everyone could eat together around one dinner table.

4:30 p.m. is not too early for baths and PJs for the youngest of the Rosenow house. They are happy to do it too, because they know what’s going to happen after dinner. Since their oldest biological daughter Kristie was two, Scott and Kathy have had the tradition of reading out loud to their children in the evening. They read one book geared for the little ones and a second one designed to challenge and entertain the older crew.

By 9 or 9:30 p.m., everyone is in bed, which is a good thing, because at 5 a.m., we all know what happens.



Expansion Floorplans

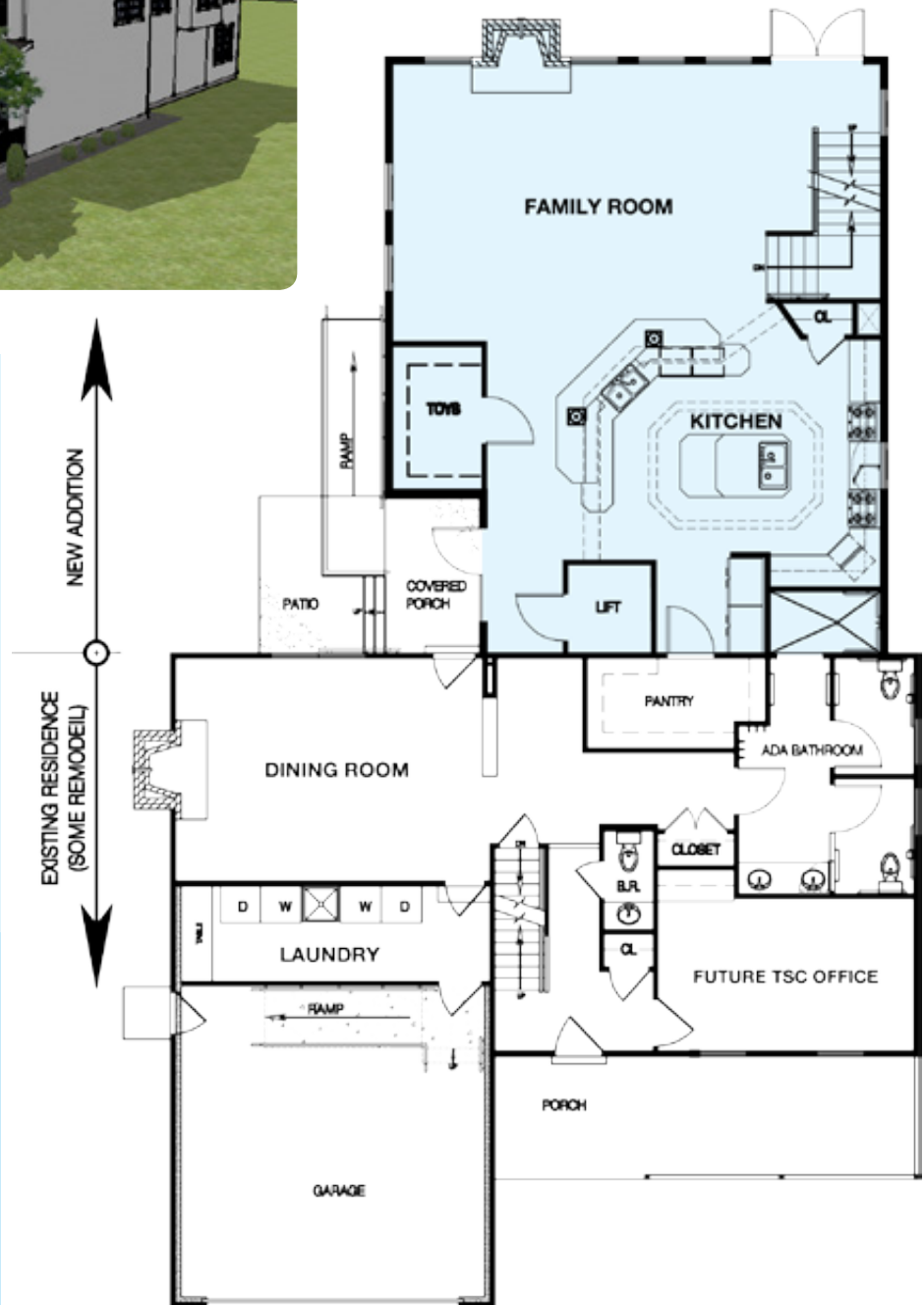


Basic Expansion:

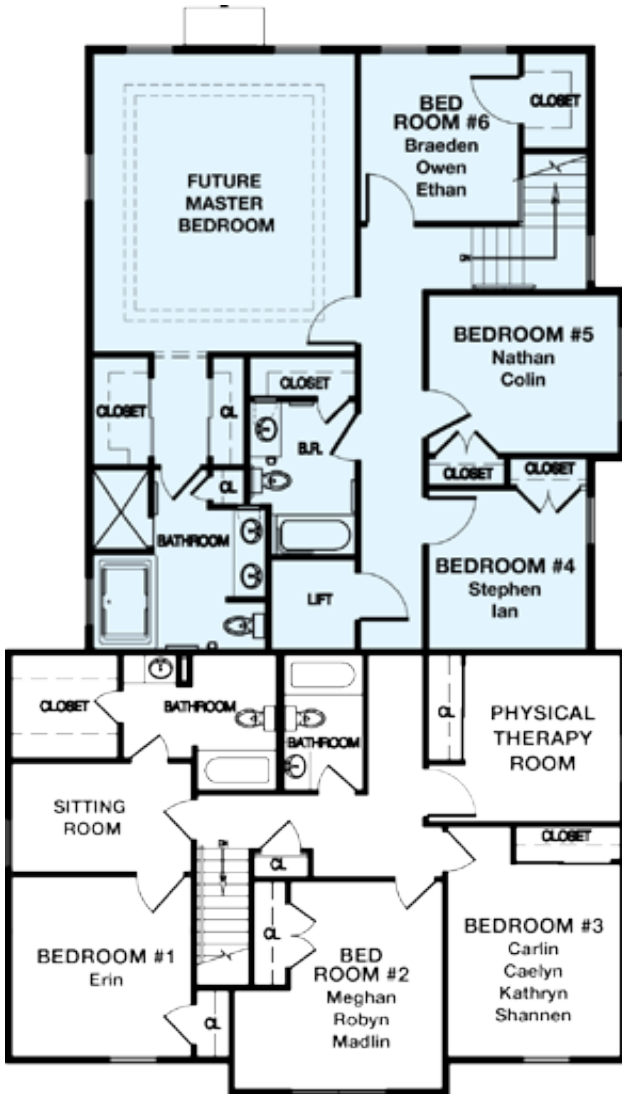
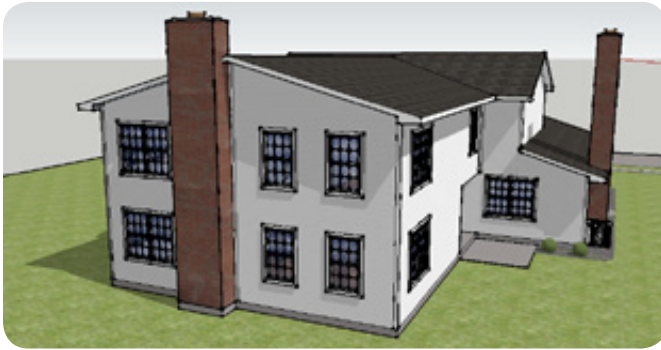
- Adding 2,400 sq.ft. to existing 2,100 sq.ft.
- 6 Bedrooms for 15 children
- 3 Full Baths upstairs
- 3 Half Baths down (ADA)
- Kitchen/Dining allows family to eat together
- Large Family Room
- Expanded Laundry
- Expanded Pantry
- Basement/Infrastructure

Desired Extras:

- Master Bedroom/Bath for Scott & Kathy
- Physical Therapy room
- Lift Elevator for wheelchair access
- Dedicated Shepherd's Crook Office
- Basic Landscaping



1ST FLOOR



2ND FLOOR



BASEMENT

From Therapist to Family Friend

by Abby Breck

I have been blessed to know the Rosenow family in a variety of capacities over the past several years.

I first met them when I served as Occupational Therapist to two of their children, Kathryn and Ethan. As a young therapist, I was in awe of their story. How did they manage a household full of children with special needs? I was amazed by their ability to juggle the challenges of daily life—laundry, cooking, cleaning, and schooling—on top of the significant medical needs their children faced—medication management, catheterizations, surgeries, and a calendar full of routine appointments.

My professional connection with the Rosenows took on a personal dimension as we joined with a team of other medical professionals to organize a mission trip to Romania to serve children with special needs who desperately needed more specialized care. It was during this time that I was first invited into the Rosenow home. They have an ability to make anyone in their home feel like family. We sat around the crowded table to eat dinner, joined in prayer time with the children, and enjoyed coffee and dessert while coordinating our mission trip with eager anticipation. Their home is full (and I do mean full) of laughter, love, and warm acceptance. I have watched their children work together and care for one another in selfless, serving ways.

Eventually, my role as the family's occupational therapist ended, but a solid friendship was rooted. Scott and Kathy became mentors to me and have



guided me spiritually with time spent reading through Scripture and prayer during both painful and joyful moments in life. My own walk with Christ has been strengthened by learning from and watching Scott and Kathy lead and nurture their family.

The Rosenow family is dear to my heart. God blessed me in an incredible way when He introduced me to Kathryn over five years ago. She is the reason I developed such a special bond with this family, and it is only fitting that she will be a flower girl in my wedding in October. Each Rosenow child has a special and unique story, and I am honored to be a small part of Kathryn's. When she is pushed down the aisle by her brother in just a few short weeks wearing her "princess dress" and carrying flowers, I will be reminded of how rich her life is, along with those of her brothers and sisters, because Scott and Kathy brought them home to be a part of the Rosenow family.



About The Shepherd's Crook

Because of their love and concern for children, Scott and Kathy Rosenow founded The Shepherd's Crook Ministries, Inc. (www.theshepherdsCrook.org), a ministry that seeks to aid special needs orphans by partnering with adoption agencies to match children with families who are able to adopt them. The Shepherd's Crook also seeks to help special needs orphans in countries closed to adoption by sending doctors or therapists, providing medical or nutritional supplies, or funding foster care by a family in the child's home country.