

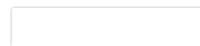
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Letter to Oprah changes woman's life

By: Curtis Schick

NISKAYUNA, N.Y. -- For five years, Joan Parow has bravely fought multiple bouts of cancer. In January, the Niskayuna mom's heart began failing, and she is currently being treated for liver cancer, with a prognosis that sadly is not good.

"My chemo treatments knock me out," said Parow.

Last spring putting pen to paper, she wrote a letter detailing her battles with the deadly disease and how she wants to do something special for her husband, Ken, and sons, Andrew and Kenny - something like, fix up the rather wrecked basement.

Well, sitting in their brand new professionally renovated and quite trendy family room, Joan and her men watch as their story is retold.



"It's better than we ever could have imagined," said Ken.

"It takes things out of my mind going through the cancer. I don't think about it when I come down here," said Joan.

The letter went to Oprah, and if you know anything about Oprah, she does things in a big way.

The gutting of the area took three weeks and features a projection TV, wood paneled walls, leather couches. The renovation also includes a new workshop for Dad and workout room the kids, as well as fresh bedroom set upstairs. For the family, the room is a reminder of the friends making it happen

"There are so many good out there, so much good out there. The good outweighs the bad," said Joan.

You wake up every day and you go to war with cancer, and it's a silver lining around a dark cloud," said Ken.

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