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## Oprah grants wish for terminally ill Niskayuna woman

By Justin Mason (Contact)  
Gazette Reporter

Monday, November 24, 2008

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**NISKAYUNA** — Joan Parow wanted to leave something behind for her husband and children.

The 42-year-old Niskayuna woman who has battled cancer for the past five years wrote a letter to Oprah Winfrey this year for help. She was initially told there was nothing Winfrey could do for her, but was offered a plane ticket to join a filming of the show in Chicago.

Parow took up Winfrey's offer and was seated in the studio audience when she received the surprise of her life. Winfrey called her to the stage and informed her that there would be a \$100,000 renovation of Parow's basement, transforming it into a workshop and entertainment center for her family.

"It's unbelievable," said Joe Tardi, a spokesman for the developer who renovated the basement of the Parow's Godfrey Lane home.

The episode of Oprah featuring Parow will air at 4 p.m. today on WNYT (News Channel 13), the local NBC affiliate. Local builder Dave Del Zotto helped refinish the basement, which was only recently completed.

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