

December 2020, Lisa Griffith

## Haven for a Covid Healthcare Warrior Revealed

In June Linda Dillard, an Operating Room Technician at UNC Rockingham Health Care in Eden learned that she was the big prize recipient of a spectacular \$20,000 Bedroom makeover to be performed by Marta Mitchell Interior Design in the Haven for a Healthcare Warrior contest.

The contest was brainstormed by Marta Mitchell Interior Design, a versatile team-based firm that collaborates with builders, contractors, architects, and of course the homeowner/ client. Marta said, "After being touched by the news stories of what the health care workers were facing, how exhausted they were after coming home, and all the sacrifices they were making," Mitchell continued, "So we thought, How can we honor somebody in the healthcare industry, fighting this COVID battle in a way that would be meaningful for them, for us and for the community. That's how we came up with a "Haven for a Healthcare Warrior." This became a \$20,000 bedroom makeover because they considered that's what they need the most, a haven in their homes that they can come home to and relax.

Nominations were requested from doctors and nurses in the field through a link on Mitchell's website.



**Linda Dillard and Mom await the reveal on the porch with designer Marta Mitchell**

The requirements were simple... someone in Rockingham County healthcare, directly involved in the COVID battle.

Out of 101 inspiring nominations from COVID 19 Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, and local Healthcare Warriors, the judges selected Linda Dillard, a hardworking team member of UNC Rockingham Health Care. Mitchell recalled, "There was no question when we started looking deeply into the sacrifices and loving actions of all the nominations that she was the winner."

Dillard was the only candidate nominated by the hospital director Misti Weadon. Linda works as an OR Tech typically, but when COVID started she was one of the first to volunteer to work in environmental services in our COVID unit, on the third floor. She also worked in the ICU and emergency department where COVID-19 and suspected COVID-19 patients were. She also assisted in comforting her coworkers into understanding that UNC would keep them safe and that they could keep themselves safe while working in this capacity. Among all this, Dillard is married and at home



cares for her husband and mother.

Steve Elbin, CEO of UNC Rockingham Health Care said, "When the public thinks about healthcare heroes they immediately think of physicians and nurses. And these folks in environmental services and food services and engineering facilities, the general public may not realize how critical you are to the ability of the clinicians to do their job."

After an initial meeting at the Dillard home, Mitchell had an idea of what the winner had in mind for her retreat at home, and the planning stage began.

Putting together the vision and style of Dillard's dream is what Marta Mitchell Interior Design is all about.

Peter Mitchell, of Marta Mitchell Design, said, "Over the past several months we have designed her new bedroom."

Dillard moved out of her home for two weeks while contractors moved in to start the demolition and begin bringing her new bedroom to reality. The reveal of the finished bedroom was on November 20th at her home in Eden.

Peter Mitchell explained, "Ultimately it was supposed to be a bedroom makeover, but it ended up being a bedroom, sitting room, and bathroom makeover." New carpeting, walls, paint, flooring, the whole bathroom and every stick of furniture in each of these rooms is new.

Marta Mitchell said, "We've been planning this for a long time. It has been a blast and I can't wait to go in with her and see her reaction. Linda for us, represents all healthcare workers and we are so grateful for and so appreciative." She added, "I want to thank my team and our whole design community in this area. We had a starting budget for this project, and the design community stepped in to support, and we ended up at about doubling the budget. So this is awesome."

Dillard declared, "It's like they read my mind. It is so beautiful. I can feel the love in what you did!" I am so grateful.