

## **Before and After**

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It was a Cinderella story of extreme proportions - and it happened right here in the Santa Clarita Valley.

She was a shy real estate agent who grew up on farm who had always wanted to transform herself into a lovely princess.

She found her fairy godmother in the form of the of three local doctors and the rest of the "Santa Clarita Extreme Makeover" committee. But instead of waving a magic wand, the committee utilized a scalpel or two - and the latest in plastic surgery techniques. Sprinkled into the transformation, was a touch of sophisticated skin care and makeup, along with a beautiful wardrobe.

Like magic, Castaic resident Cheri Brazeal, 32, became the Cinderella she always dreamed of being - much to the well wishes of her family and friends who showed up to her coming out party held at the Hyatt Valencia on Dec. 14.

Arriving by limo instead of pumpkin coach, Brazeal, the Santa Clarita Extreme Makeover winner, looked radiant as she took her catwalk on the stage as more than 200 guests looked on.

"I'm speechless," said Brazeal's mother, Kathleen Harris who along with Brazeal's father Charles, flew in early from their vacation spot in Costa Rica to see the unveiling of their daughter.

"She looks beautiful and confident," said Charles Harris as he wiped a tear from his eye. Harris said he was happy for his daughter and supported he choice to have the transformation performed.

The Extreme Makeover Santa Clarita committee chose Brazeal as their Cinderella of choice from a pool of more than 100 candidates through a selection process held back in August. She was announced as the winner at the Hyatt Valencia's Rose Garden amid fanfare and press on Sept. 10. Her coming out party marked the completion of the process.

Brazeal, a married mother of two, thanked the committee for choosing her as the candidate in the first Extreme Makeover Santa Clarita.

The makeover was a cooperative effort sponsored by Dr. Marc Lussier, a Santa Clarita Valley-based plastic surgeon.

"She looks awesome," said Lussier who performed the body work, which included some breast work, liposuction and a few other adjustments.

Lussier said the idea to bring an extreme makeover to the SCV was sparked when he heard local residents discussing the ABC program which "makes over" people by providing plastic surgery, cosmetic dentistry and other non-surgical services. "They were talking about the popular ABC reality show and how wonderful they thought it was and the difference it made to change a person's life for the better," Lussier said. "This is a true Cinderella story," said Lussier. "We were able to reveal the beautiful person that was there all along."

Plastic surgeon Dr. D. David Saadat and cosmetic dentist Dr. Dell Goodrick rounded out the team of surgeons who nipped and tucked in just the right places in an effort to help Brazeal look and feel her best. The surgery was performed on Oct. 3, making this a short turnaround for the extreme makeover.

"Because we will be accomplishing our makeover in a relatively short time span, we had to consider the logistics of the various potential treatments and overlap of recovery time," Goodrick explained.

"Look at this fabulous figure they gave me," said Brazeal as she modeled her new self before her friends and family.

Saadat credited Brazeal's inner beauty for helping the doctors bring out her outer beauty.

"We couldn't have chosen a better candidate," said Saadat.

The multiple surgeries were in keeping with current trends to incorporate the whole person, rather than just isolated areas. Saadat performed the facial surgery which included rhinoplasty, a small chin implant, a brow lift and some fat injections in her lips and eye area to achieve a softer look.

In addition to the physicians, participating committee members included local fitness expert Cheryl Broughton and Margo Miller owner of Margo's boutique in Newhall. Other members include Debbie Shrey; Debbie Meija; Shelley Hann; Richard Schlottman; Linda Hafizi; Gary Choppe; David Cadwell; Stella Pilarski; Greg Amsler, Steve's Florist; Ray Carlson and the Hyatt Valencia.

Broughton, who served as master of ceremonies for the unveiling, provided the fitness and nutrition component of the makeover.

The participating committee members donated their time and services for the makeover. Brazeal was responsible for such costs as pre-medical evaluations and prescriptions, which may have been covered by health insurance. The entire process was photographed and video-taped by Souvenir Productions.

The cost of Brazeal's procedures would have carried a price tag of approximately \$30,000 or more, according to Lussie's office.

Brazeal thanked the committee for transforming her into the woman of her dreams.

"This is a dream come true and I can't thank you enough."

For more information about Extreme Makeover Santa Clarita, visit [www.extememakeover.com](http://www.extememakeover.com).

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