

# Eddie Cathey

## Sheriff of Union County

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### ***NEWS RELEASE***

December 12, 2017

For Immediate Release

### **OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED AT SILVEY HOME REBUILT BY THE COMMUNITY AFTER DEVASTATING FIRE**

Union County Sheriff's Office Detention Officer Sherry Silvey is resting comfortably in her rebuilt New Salem area house, thanks to support from Sheriff Eddie Cathey and the overwhelming generosity shown by co-workers, businesses, churches and charitable organizations. She is excited about showing off the finished product made possible by kindness shown to her by so many people. Silvey has scheduled an **OPEN HOUSE for December 19, 2017 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm** at her new home located at 6514 New Salem Road, Monroe, NC.

The day after Thanksgiving 2014 is one that Sherry Silvey will not forget. Silvey and her daughters left home that morning and drove to another daughter's house for lunch. Later that afternoon, Silvey was on her way home when she got stuck in traffic on New Salem Road, not far from the double-wide trailer where she raised her daughters as a single mother. One of the people in her car got out to take a closer look at what was causing the traffic backup. Silvey was shocked when she found out traffic was stopped because of a fire at her house.

The New Salem Volunteer Fire Department responded to the call at Silvey's residence about 4:38 pm that day after a neighbor reported seeing smoke and flames behind Silvey's house. The fire department extinguished the fire, which was primarily concentrated near a gas HVAC unit on the rear of the home. The fire was suppressed before the entire structure was consumed but the residence suffered extensive smoke damage, causing the home to be uninhabitable. Not

only did Silvey and her kids lose their home, but most of their personal effects were lost due to heavy smoke. The insurance on the double wide and its contents was insufficient to cover the cost for a replacement home because Silvey paid only \$1500.00 for the trailer due to its old age and poor condition at the time of purchase. However, Silvey managed to raise her three daughters there along with a little girl Silvey acquired legal guardianship of when the child was only nine months old. This little girl, Ashtlyine, suffered from Shaken Baby Syndrome at the hands of her biological father and Silvey has raised Ashtlyine since that time.

Left without a house and very few items not destroyed by the fire, Silvey and the girls moved in with one of her daughters where they lived temporarily. Not long after this devastating loss, Silvey's supervisor, Lieutenant Lynn Adcock, decided to go the extra mile to help Silvey and her children out. Lt. Adcock presented an idea to Sheriff Cathey about partnering with a charitable organization, *Have a Heart Foundation*, to solicit donations, materials and labor to build a house on the land where the fire occurred. Without hesitation, Sheriff Cathey agreed to the idea and supported the efforts of all employees who volunteered to help out one of their own.

After partnering with *Have a Heart Foundation*, Lt. Adcock went to work organizing each phase of the project, beginning with the removal of the burned out trailer. Silvey's son-in-law, Andrew Snyder, who works in construction, recruited contractors, laborers, volunteers and businesses to assist with different phases of construction. Many companies donated materials or provided them at cost while others donated labor and materials. After nearly three years without a permanent home, Silvey and her adopted granddaughter, Ashtlyine, moved into the beautiful three bedroom, two bath house on Friday, November 17, 2017.

Overwhelmed with gratitude, Silvey said there are so many people and businesses to thank she is afraid she will forget some of them. However, she attempted to name the businesses that came to mind: *Have a Heart Foundation*; Parker Heating and Air; Carolina Ready-Mix LLC; Eric McComb; McCollum Trucking & Grading, Inc; Carolina Brick and Materials; Contractors Building Supply; Locust Lumber; McGee Brothers Masonry; Windsor Windows, Graybar, City Electric, Shealy Electric, Green's Electric, Eudy's Cabinets and many others. She specifically remembered Unionville Baptist Church hosting a spaghetti dinner and the proceeds helping pay off the land. Her daughter, Brittany, set up a Go Fund Me page to solicit donations and her son-in-law, Andrew Snyder, played a prominent role in coordinating all of the work.

Silvey said that none of this would have been possible without the kind hearts of so many people. She never dreamed any of this would happen and is humbled by the generosity of everyone who donated money, time, labor, materials and prayers.

Sheriff Eddie Cathey said, “Ms. Sherry Silvey is a kind and gentle person who has gone through a lot of struggles in her life. But yet, she has done a great job taking care of her daughters and her adopted granddaughter to provide a loving home for them. It was great seeing the community rally around her and so many people in this office volunteering to help out because they care about each other. Having a new home built through the spirit of giving is what the meaning of Christmas is all about.”



Point of contact for this press release is Chief Communications Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

**Union County Sheriff's Office** at 704-283-3789

Or

**Union County Crimestoppers** at 704-283-5600

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