

Makeover creates a new woman on the outside

Hardly anyone recognized Carolyn Sue Napier. Not her relatives. Not her friends. Not even her mother.

"Until she smiled," said mom Judy Jones. "Then I recognized her."

When she stepped out from behind the curtain Saturday night at Hillview Country Club in Franklin, there were more than a few gasps mixed with the applause. While Napier was the same person on the inside — only a lot more self-assured — she was different on the outside, the result of a head-to-toe



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makeover.

Napier was the second person to receive a makeover from a team of doctors and other professionals, led by Dr. Gregory Raymond of Franklin. (The first, Jodie Byrne, who got a makeover earlier this year, was in the audience Saturday.) Raymond got the idea from the TV show "Extreme Makeover."

If you missed it, you'll have a chance to see the transformation for yourself. Napier's makeover was chronicled, start to finish, by "Inside Edition." The segment is expected to air this month on

WISH (Channel 8).

For Napier, 54, the experience was a long time coming. Growing up, she was self-conscious about her appearance. She had large spaces between her teeth, so she rarely smiled. In high school, she had acne so bad it left scars.

She got married when she was 22. She and her husband, Vince, had one child, Tony. Vince, a Vietnam veteran, developed health problems, including Crohn's disease. He died in 1991, leaving Napier, 40, alone to raise a teen-ager. After her husband died, Napier started gaining a lot of weight.

Raymond said Napier's story — caring for her husband, raising her son — was a compelling one, and it resonated

with the makeover team when they were interviewing applicants.

"She's made so many sacrifices and worked her tail off and put herself on the back burner," Raymond said.

Napier's uncle, Marple Fannin, 66, says that's an accurate assessment. "It was always others first, then herself."

Raymond said some applicants were misguided. One applicant talked about wanting to show up her classmates for



Carolyn Sue Napier, before (at left) and after her makeover.



her five-year high school reunion.

From the start, Raymond said, the makeovers have been about helping a deserving person look better and feel good about themselves, not about turning someone into a magazine model. In fact, that's what attracted "Inside Edition" to the story.

Raymond said Napier's life had taken a toll on her appearance. "She looked 10

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■ Transformation has really helped boost her confidence.

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to 15 years older than 54," he said.

Napier, who lives in Franklin, took the first step on her own. In the summer of 1993, she was swimming with her two granddaughters. She had trouble pulling herself out of the water, "and it scared me. I thought then and there I needed to do something about the weight."

A year ago, she had gastric bypass surgery. She's since lost 131 pounds and gone from a size 22W to a size 4P.

But that was only the beginning.

Then she got selected and, through the team, had work done on her face, forehead and brow by Dr. Mark Hamilton. She had Botox and Restylin injections. She had breast augmentation, a body lift and nearly 20 veneers put on her teeth. Work was done on her skin and eyes. She started seeing a personal trainer. She had her makeup and her hair done.

The hairstylist, Donna Miller, is a testament to resilience. On Saturday morning, the day that the new Napier was to be revealed to the world, Miller's business burned down in the fire at Vista Run in Greenwood. But Miller came through.

According to Napier, everyone came through.

"I feel so good about myself,

Makeover applications

Dr. Gregory Raymond and his team are planning a third makeover for early next year. Applications are available by calling Raymond's office at (317) 738-6802.

you would not believe it," said Napier, who works as a pharmacy technician at the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin. "I smile all the time, and I have a better outlook on life. I'm a much happier person."

Jones, Napier's mom, chimes in that her daughter also has "really sexy eyes now."

Fannin, her uncle, who came to the country club Saturday from Beaver Creek, Ohio, said the transformation is amazing.

"I wouldn't have recognized her if I had met her on the street," he said. "It couldn't have happened to a nicer person."

Napier has been dating Bob Beam, 56, Nineveh, since the summer. He said he noticed she is more confident. But he says the experience hasn't changed who she is on the inside.

Napier's son, Tony, 29, Trafalgar, confesses that he was a little apprehensive about the whole thing at first. Tony Napier said his mother looks radically different, but there's something more. "She looks confident, which is something I hadn't seen in her in years."

But for Tony, it doesn't matter how his mother looks. "I love her either way."

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