

## *Abused children can't wait*

Owner of a framing and construction company, Reed Butscher makes dreams come true for his sister Amy who works for advertising agency The Richards Group.

“Basically, I dictate to Reed what to do and he rolls his eyes and says ‘Are you kidding me?’” Amy said. “Then before we know it, the house is framed and we’re both in love with it.”

Over time, other Butscher siblings have found themselves drawn into the project, which Amy and Reed typically build in Reed’s Wylie backyard just a mile from his sister’s home. For their “Up” playhouse two years ago, they invited their large family over, handed each one a paintbrush with different colors and told them to get to work. The resulting multi-color house was a Parade of Playhouses favorite.

Their first playhouse – a pirate ship in 2007 – started the siblings’ commitment. Since then, they’ve designed and built a truck, a “Frozen” castle and a camper playhouse among others.

“I want our playhouses to be playable,” Amy said. “And I want them safe and sized right for children ages four to ten so they bring joy to a child for several years.”

Amy’s designs are always focused on the children. She looks for fun details that catch a child’s eye and ways to let their imaginations run free.

“I love the idea of building a playhouse – the happiest place for a child – to help children who are in very difficult situations,” Amy said.

For the Butschers’ 2016 playhouse, Amy has set her sights on a Steampunk concept. She’s already found someone to create a series of gears to hang on a wall of the house that will spin and turn and work together. She hopes the detailed, industrial look and activity will draw kids in.

Now she just has to tell her brother that this year’s house may be the most challenging ever.

