



Summer 2009 Newsletter

# This Old House: From Outdated to Outstanding

We all strive to age gracefully. Too bad our homes can't do the same.

Sophia and David Modi are familiar with the aches and pains of an aging house. Aside from the general maintenance work it needed, their 20-year-old residence in Derwood, MD had an outdated deck, inefficient windows, and slowly deteriorating bathrooms.

Since the Modis sponsor a home each April for Rebuilding Together (see reverse), they had worked with DG Liu Contractor on one of the organization's home improvement projects. "Jerry did a home with us and we liked the way he handled everything," says Sophia. "We thought he'd be someone to use when we thought of redoing our own place."

We began from the outside in by "wrapping" their home's existing wood trim with aluminum coil, custom forming the aluminum to cover the old wood. This provided a maintenance-free exterior that never has to be painted. Likewise, the old deck was ripped out, and a maintenance-free composite deck was installed, along with a wide entry step and new accent lighting along the rails. We replaced the windows with new low-maintenance, high-efficiency windows, and swapped out the old gutters and garage door as well.

Inside, we tackled the master bathroom, which had to be completely gutted since, as Sophia



says, "the shower tile was coming apart and we were afraid it would eventually collapse." We installed a large shower with a bench-type seat, added a closet, and put in a new bathtub, fresh tile, and granite countertops. The hallway bathroom was also upgraded with a new toilet and mirror, cabinets, paint, and fixtures.

The family loves the results.

***"I like everything they did," Sophia says. "The master bath really does look great, and the workmanship was very good. It makes me want to do my kitchen now!"***



Is your home aging less than gracefully? Give us a call!

**1-866-99DGLIU**

Visit our website: [www.dgliucontractor.com](http://www.dgliucontractor.com)

# Helping One Who's Helped Many

This year's Rebuilding Together project doubled the meaning of the phrase "giving back." Every year DG Liu Contractor participates in this home improvement project for deserving, low-income Montgomery County residents. This year, we were honored to be able to help out someone who has made a great difference in many people's lives.



Harvey Ziegler, a World War II Veteran and acclaimed civil rights leader, was chosen among hundreds to receive free repairs to his home through our company and Rebuilding Together of Montgomery County. Ziegler was highly active in the civil rights movement during the 1960s, and has received awards from the Montgomery County Human Rights Commission and Howard University for his work throughout the region. He was even inducted into the Montgomery County Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2006. As Susan Hawfield, executive director for Re-

building Together of Montgomery County, puts it, Ziegler "has always been involved in building his community, helping others gain access to services which you and I take for granted."

Having lived at his residence for the last 60 years, Ziegler, now 90, is unable to provide the maintenance and repairs his home requires. The old, cramped, and deteriorating house had rotted floors and a kitchen that was too small for comfortable use. A bathroom shower was completely rusted out and the plumbing barely worked.

Typically, our crew would provide minor repairs, new knobs and locks, fresh paint, and other enhancements. But in this case, ordinary upgrades wouldn't do. We decided to start fresh by gutting a portion of the house and constructing an addition, which encompassed a new bathroom and kitchen, new appliances, cabinets and fixtures, and all new wiring and siding. We also installed new easy-care vinyl floors and carpeting, and rebuilt the sagging back porch. Although Ziegler is still an active 90-year-old, we made everything handicap accessible as well, in case he should require it later.

We're proud to say that our relationship with Rebuilding Together has been a long one. "Jerry has been involved with us since our second year," says Hawfield. "Because of his dedication, his quality work and his relationships with other groups, he is at the



top of our list for which project he gets. He's quite remarkable and is a good friend to our organization."

Rebuilding Together is the nation's leading nonprofit organization working to preserve homes and revitalize communities. Its success depends upon the labors and services, and contributions of equipment and materials, from members of our community. For more information, visit [www.rebuildingtogethermc.org](http://www.rebuildingtogethermc.org).



## STAFF PROFILE

### Dale Kramer

Dale Kramer, sales and project designer for DG Liu Contractor, began as a carpenter for our crew in 1987. His daughter Nicole, then a newborn, is now a college graduate, and his son Lance, who started here as a summer helper, is now an accomplished carpenter himself.

Over the years, Dale proceeded to lead carpenter/project management, a progression he made with no worries. "My transition from carpenter to sales was easy," he says, "knowing whatever I sold would be built in a professional and high-quality way."

Dale views his loyal customer base as one of the best aspects of his job. "I most enjoy listening to people's remodeling needs and issues, helping them realize a solution they hadn't considered. Ultimately, I love seeing them enjoying their new spaces."

## Call the Handymen: 1-866-99dgLiu

Why risk your safety and lose your weekends doing those fix-up jobs best left to a pro? We will do the job right and help you keep your home in top condition.



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Dickerson, MD 20842



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