

December 8, 2009

Mr. Mitch Kersch  
Major Homes  
48-52 Clearview Expressway  
Bayside, New York 11364

Dear Mr. Kersch,

I saw your contest listed in the Queens Tribune yesterday and I would like to nominate my sister, Catherine Brigante, and her husband Joseph Brigante.

They are actually past customers of yours! Your company built their dormer at 56-03 196<sup>th</sup> Place in 2001. During the planning for the dormer, they decided to have a third bedroom built because they wanted to give their son a baby brother or sister. Unfortunately, after two miscarriages, two failed artificial inseminations, and then two invitro fertilizations that resulted in two more miscarriages, and \$11,000.00 in credit card bills for all of the medications Catherine needed to take for the invitro, the future bedroom for their baby now lies dormant as a "spare room" .

They decided two years ago to make that room into a dining room and had your Budd (who was then giving an estimate for my Mother, Eleanor Simpson who lives on the first floor of the same house for a new bathroom) come up and take a look. He then "guesstimated" that the work they wanted would cost about \$10,000.00. They put it on hold for a while, but said they would call when they were ready.

Unfortunately, more health problems arose for them. My brother-in-law has a genetic kidney disease called Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). Over this summer, his kidney function declined and he is now in end-stage renal failure and in need of a kidney transplant. My sister offered to be tested and to everyone's amazement, was a match!! She underwent all of the other tests, and it was a go, when his GFR level reached the level designated by UNOS for transplant she would donate her kidney.

Then, more health problems. My sister was suffering terribly with severe pelvic pain, heavy bleeding, and lower back pain. She was diagnosed with adenomyosis (a benign tumor of the uterus). However, we have a family history of ovarian and cervical cancers, and she was strongly advised to have a Complete hysterectomy. After much thought, and three further opinions, she and her husband decided that she must go ahead and pursue the surgery. She had her complete hysterectomy done on November 12, 2009 and is currently still recuperating.

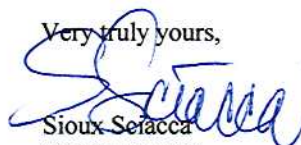
Now, Joseph is still in need of his transplant. He has good days, but, the bad days are beginning to take their toll on them physically and financially. As his disease progresses the cysts on his kidneys grow larger and larger. They have consumed most of the healthy tissue on both kidneys and he is at about 20% kidney function. Other family members, his brother and two cousins ,offered to be tested, but were not suitable matches. We are now awaiting crossmatching results that were recently done on my other sister and Joe's two other cousins. We should get those results by the ending of this week. With the pain and discomfort that comes with his enlarged kidneys, he has had to turn away any overtime work that has been offered to him.

That all being said, their dream of the new dining room have come to a halt. They just wanted some walls taken down and wood flooring in that room, hallway, and living room, but, with my sister recovering, and Joe's disease, it is not going to happen any time soon.

Please consider them for your free remodeling contest. It would truly be some much needed happiness for them and their little seven year old son who is going through so much.

Thank you for your consideration and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, prosperous New Year.

Very truly yours,



Sioux Seracca  
(917)459-0580  
Blackr816@verizon.net



**Mitchell Kersch**

---

**From:** Sioux P. Sciacca [blackr816@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 20, 2009 2:39 PM  
**To:** Mitchell Kersch  
**Subject:** Brigante's

Mitch,

My sister told me about the gifts you gave them...and I cried. You must be brothers with HUGE hearts! that is was not enough of you all to "apy t forward" with helping them with their home...but that was the kindest, heartfelt letter I have heard in quite some time! People have lost the art of letter writing, what with the interenet and text messages. Here, myself; writing you this email.

I truly do not have words to express my gratitude for your selfless act for my family. And as you requested...I have paid it forward. I got an email from a friend in Delaware telling me the story of a mom with 3 small kids whose husband up and left them last month. But he didn't just leave...he took EVERYTHING. All the Christmas gifts for the children, household items, clothing and even their Christmas tree!!! This poor mom was devastated...so the emails went out. Several of our friends donated money to this family...she, at last count collected \$700 from the 6 of us who joined forces to give this family a proper Christmas. And...it will all be done for them. The tree with be bought and trimmed, a gourmet holiday meal brought to them and many, many gifts from Santa for mom and kids. And, on a much smaller scale...I cleaned the snow from my neighbors property today.

As rough as these past few years have been on this family...it has brought us closer and has proven to us that family and love CAN conquer all. Learning I have cancer 5 years ago was the worst and the best thing that has ever happened to me. It has tought me not to take things for granted, to count my blessings for what I do have, and to be a better person all around. I think everything that has gone on within these walls has taught us all to cherish the days together and to give whenever we can. We are fortunate to be here...be alive...and even thought things are wrong...there are many out there who are MUCH worse off than any of us.

Did Cathy tell you? Our other sister tested for a living donation to Joe for his kidney! She is a match!! My sister will save my brother-in-laws life!!! Talk about a Christmas miracle!!!

Anyway Mitch...I won't take up any more of your time. I really just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you and the boys at Major Homes are doing for my sister and her family. And please, thank your brother for me...(I apologize, I don't recall his name).

You are clearly men filled with heart and love for your fellow man...and it is so refreshing to be reminded that there are people out there like you.

May you and your families have much happiness and many blessings in the New Year. Merry Christmas to you all....

Sioux Sciacca

There are expected to be 35,550 NEW cases of thyroid cancer diagnosed this year!!! CHECK YOUR NECK!!

PLEASE SUPPORT THYROID CANCER AWARENESS VISIT [WWW.THYCA.ORG](http://WWW.THYCA.ORG)

THYROID CANCER AWARENESS....[thyroid cancer survivors conference](http://thyroidcancersurvivorsconference.com) [www.thyca.org](http://www.thyca.org)