

A major gift

Every so often, Mitch Kersch, president of A-rated Major Homes in Bayside, N.Y., places an advertisement in the local paper soliciting requests from his neighbors for construction work they need but can't afford.

As the letters come in, Kersch and his son, Jason, select a job to perform for free. "I like to give back," Kersch says. Over the years, his company has installed a kitchen for a family that has three children diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, as well as completing a \$12,000 remodeling job for a husband recovering from a double kidney transplant while his wife struggled with cancer — all gratis.

Kersch helped Long Island, N.Y., resident Karrie Ann Vitti after learning her husband lost three of his fingers in a work-related accident. The Vittis were in the process of remodeling their home with the help of family members when a rainstorm left significant water damage to the house. "Mitch came and said the



Photo courtesy of Major Homes | Mitch Kersch and his son, Jason, do construction work for neighbors in need.



Photo courtesy of Major Homes | To help out a married couple with health issues, Major Homes remodeled a room, free of charge.

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water was coming from the siding on the back of the house because it was installed wrong," Vitti says. "When he said he would fix the siding for free, I was flabbergasted. He's beyond fantastic. It was a miracle."

Inspired by the movie "Pay It Forward," Kersch says giving back to the community doesn't have to involve money. "It could be as simple as walking somebody across the street," he says. "If people could just learn how to do that, the world would be a better place." ☞

—additional reporting by Nick McLain

Read about our Wishmakers program in Angie's column this month.