



Making Life Easier

For most of us, the biggest inconvenience we encounter with our homes is the occasional one— the leaky roof, the broken furnace or the windows that need to be replaced. But for 60-year-old Bill Butler of Rochester, the inconveniences of his home were all too frequent.

Bill's mobility is limited to his wheelchair, but you would never guess it by stepping into his meticulously organized 1900 Victorian home. Colorful art and antique posters line the walls, and the landscaping is kept trim and tasteful. The only thing that was keeping this home from being idyllic for Bill was the accessibility, and anyone who is limited to a wheelchair can tell you that accessibility is everything. Everyday routines like showering, cooking and washing the dishes became strenuous after a while because Bill's home didn't have the amenities that he needed. That's when he decided to give NeighborWorks® Rochester a call.



After working with Amy, our Homeownership Coordinator, Bill was able to receive a Home Improvement Loan through NeighborWorks® Rochester to help him start the work needed on his home. Mike D'Ambrosia, our Housing Analyst, then met with Bill to discuss the design and plan. The major project would be to remodel Bill's bathroom in order to make it handicap accessible, but other minor projects included installing new railing on the front porch and fixing a dryer vent. After the plans were finalized and the project was contracted, the work began!

Until the start of the project, Bill had to stand up from his wheelchair and pivot in order to get into his tub. Once in the tub, Bill held on to bars for support and bathed himself, exhausting his arm strength. While getting ready, Bill also had difficulty using his mirror and sink because they were hard to access and too high up for him to see.

The new design would include a roll-in shower that would be big enough for Bill's wheelchair; allowing him to bathe while staying seated. It would also include a new sink with easier access and a rectangular mirror to help him better see while getting ready.

The project only took a total of eight weeks to complete, but the outcome was a big improvement. Now, with his new convenient bathroom, Bill is able to shower with ease and is considering purchasing another Home Improvement Loan in the future for the remodel of his kitchen.

Before



After



After

