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► The Flores Remodel

Gloria and Ramon Flores bought their new three-bedroom house in Oshtemo Township in 1992, and through the years, they made some changes to help meet the needs of their growing family. Actually, it was Ramon, says Gloria, who did all the work, since he loved working with wood. He finished the basement, adding a family room and game room. The plan was for him to finish the rest of the projects on their list after he retired.

This home will be featured in the

- More details on back page

PARADE of REMODELED HOMES

Then, in 2014, Ramon died of cancer at age 63. "It was a dark time after he died," recalls Gloria. Some of the unfinished projects in the house literally intensified that darkness, she says. One of the things the couple had wanted to change was to open up the first floor. "It was not open concept," she says. "It was closed and dark and sad."

About that time, the Flores's neighbors were undergoing a home remodel, and DeHaan Remodeling Specialists trucks were there almost daily. "I kept going next door to look at the updates," Gloria says. "I really liked the DeHaans' work."

Eventually, she spoke with Bob DeHaan, who came to the Flores house to take a look. A plan was agreed on, and work started in October 2016. By the end of the year, Gloria had a home that displayed all the things she and Ramon had dreamed of.

Continued on back



A wall between the kitchen and living room was taken down. Dark cabinets in the kitchen were replaced with light ones. A wood fireplace was converted to gas. ("It was hard to chop wood after my husband got sick," Gloria explains.) Carpets were replaced with hardwood and tile. When Gloria was stumped trying to choose the right paint color for the walls, the DeHaans sent a decorator over to give advice. The new design lifted some of the darkness. "Now when I get up in the morning," Gloria says, "all the light comes in and it's gorgeous."

Gloria says that she had never taken on a project like this one before, on her own, and the DeHaans made it a wonderful experience for her. "I always wanted to meet the Property Brothers on TV," she laughs. But with the DeHaans, she got three brothers (not just two, like on TV), and their dad. Each of the DeHaans, plus all their subcontractors, she reports, were considerate and respectful. She was at home most of the time while the work was being done, and far from being stressful, she found the experience fun.

Gloria's grown children and three grandchildren come to visit often and they too love the house's new look. "They're already putting bids on who gets the house," their grandma says.

Gloria has recommended DeHaan Remodeling to friends with upcoming projects, and her home's new look has helped her get through some of the darkness since losing her husband. "I'm very proud of myself for the choices I made and the ones DeHaan helped me make."

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