

# Rebuilding Together: Stanfordville resident thanks volunteers for repairing her home

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STANFORDVILLE — Having originally hailed from Brooklyn, where people tend to keep to themselves, Michele Confredo was overwhelmed by the kindness and outreach she received from Rebuilding Together Dutchess County (RTDC) as RTDC volunteers and Rebuilding Day affiliates completed a number of critical home repairs and modifications on her home in Stanfordville.

A resident of Stanfordville for the last 16 years, Confredo said her house was “the only thing I own in the world, and to see it start falling apart around you is sad.”

Among some of the concerns Confredo had, a failing chimney allowed water to come pouring in, causing severe water damage and presenting a safety hazard with the electrical wiring. There were also concerns about the downstairs bathroom as well as difficulties moving safely through the home — issues that RTDC paid careful attention to as repairs were completed.

RTDC typically joins its Rebuilding Together affiliates every year in October to provide critical home repairs for low-income homeowners at no cost to the homeowner. Starting Thursday, Oct. 17, RTDC volunteers began working alongside employees from Consigli Construction, a construction company from Pleasant Valley, to complete the repairs needed to revitalize Confredo’s home.

On Friday morning, Oct. 18, 15 employees from the Consigli team helped out. The project cost around \$30,000. Repairs included tearing out and replacing the crumbling cement steps at the front of the house; rebuilding the front entry landing; installing stairs with steps and handrails; and extending the rise and run to make it easier for Confredo to enter her home. In the downstairs section of the home, volunteers prepared the area for a future caregiver to live in, removed the shower and flooring that had been ruined by water damage and installed an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant toilet. Along with replacing the flooring, the team installed grab bars in the bathroom and a walk-in shower. Other modifications included installing carbon monoxide alarms, smoke alarms and a fire extinguisher; patching the side of the house; installing new light fixtures; and painting the entire house.

“The thing about Michele is this is her only asset,” said RTDC Executive Director Christina Boryk. “She loves her house and she wants to be able to stay in it, so we’re very happy to bring this very skilled team here to help her.”

Following the work completed by Consigli Construction, Hudson Valley Chimney Services Inc. came on board to replace the house’s chimney. Once that was finished, Exterior Plus began the necessary flashing, or weatherproofing, work to seal the space between the roof and chimney and make it water-tight.

Consigli Construction later returned to repair the interior damage around the fireplace, painting the area once it was water-tight.

“It’s nice we’re able to give them a really big project,” Boryk said, adding that this year marks Consigli Construction’s fourth year of completing projects with RTDC.

While the deadline for RTDC's Rebuilding Day projects has since passed, applicants may still apply for year-round programs, such as the Home Safety and Fire Prevention program and the Handyman program, by visiting [www.rebuildingtogetherdutchesscounty.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetherdutchesscounty.org).

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