

I am a work in progress

By Terry C., Louisiana

We recently bought an 84-year-old house. We were drawn to the quality and craftsmanship of the older home, and planned to update it before moving in. Once the previous owners moved out, we were able to see the space more clearly and added to the list of repairs.

My husband is a carpenter, so he immediately focused on the woodwork and flooring—the structural issues. I began to envision paint colors, landscaping improvements, and window treatments—the aesthetics. But before we began any forward movement, we had to clear out decades of debris left over from the attic, yard, and garage. Two generations of the same family had lived in and loved our new home. We found trash as well as treasures from their tenure.

It reminds me of the beginning of my recovery, when my life was in shambles. I wanted things to look better and I wanted to feel better—quickly. But as I began to work the Steps, sorting through my assets

and my defects, clearing away the debris of my past became important. The difficult and seemingly less rewarding work began to make room for a new way of living, and the ever-so-slowly rebuilding of a new emotional, spiritual, and financial life that I enjoy today.

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Although our home renovation is not complete, the broken remnants have been taken away, the structural damage has been repaired, and the fixtures that were solid have been beautifully restored. What a perfect picture of my Al-Anon journey: the debris has been cleared, my heart has been healed, and as I continue to practice the principles of Al-Anon, my assets can shine through. My new home and I are both a work in progress!

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