



NAHB Professional Women in Building Week

September 14-18



PWB Week Sponsor



NCWVHBA BUILDER: ADELHEID SCHAUPP

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

"Adelheid Schaupp, also known as "Heidi" because people tend to struggle with Adelheid"

WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR BUSINESS OR BUSINESSES?

"Empire 2000 LLC and Ageless Enterprises LLC"

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN BUSINESS?

"16 years. I bought my first rental house when I was a junior in college."

WHAT DOES YOUR BUSINESS DO? SPECIALTIES?

"I seem to have a knack for finding the worst homes in the neighborhood and bringing them back to life. Most of the time, these are homes that have been abandoned for extended periods of time or are condemned. Some of my more interesting houses had fire damage, were hoarder houses, HUD houses, a heroin den, a meth lab and a home that had flooded. The worse the condition, the more fun it is for me. It is rare for me to turn down a home in my area, but I have walked away from a few, primarily for structural reasons. I enjoy repairing the old homes and restoring the historical integrity to these neglected structures. We then either rent the homes or sell them. Our main objective, however, is to improve the neighborhood as a whole and make it an attractive and marketable place for first time home buyers, long term residents or renters."

WHAT AREA DO YOU SERVICE?

"Greenmont neighborhood, next to South Park in Morgantown."



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HOW DID YOU GET YOUR IDEA OR CONCEPT FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

"I absolutely have to credit my father for this one. I studied history and German for both my undergrad and graduate career. Therefore, my father convinced me that I would have to learn a real trade in order to supplement a meager income in academia. Much to his dismay, I fell in love with construction and dropped out of my Ph.D. program at Carnegie Mellon. I would like to think that today, however, he would not be disappointed. We started with one dilapidated house and today we have grown to over forty rental units and have more recently been flipping houses in Greenmont. We are currently purchasing land in Greenmont to build new homes."

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR A FEMALE STARTING OUT IN THE CONSTRUCTION TRADE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"Hands down (the) most important component for success is having a supportive partner or spouse. It's difficult enough running your own business or doing physical labor all day, but then having to return home and meet all of the family needs can be exhausting. You have to find someone that wants you to succeed in your job as much, if not more so than you do. It can be very difficult for women to try and balance work life and home life and not feel guilty about not spending enough time with kids or family. No one wants to walk through the door, be handed the baby and asked what's for dinner before you even get your boots off. A supportive partner won't mind doing some the mundane domestic chores that typically occupy so much of a woman's time at home."



WHY DID YOU JOIN THE HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION? WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION?

"Carl York convinced me to attend my first meeting. Initially I kept putting him off because I was just starting out and was intimidated by all the other builders that had already made a name for themselves. But if you know Carl, you know he is persistent and he finally got me to go. It was then I realized how stupid it was to feel like you had to be a big business or major player to attend. The people were fantastic and also super supportive. They put me into contact with bankers, suppliers and other trades people, but most importantly they provided a reliable network of friends. I could call someone from the home builders association and ask them a code question or a building question and not feel like an idiot. The members have always been helpful, knowledgeable and supportive. I would most certainly encourage anyone who is starting out or trying to run a business in the building industry to join their local association."

