

company, "we took a big leap forward," says Scott, acquiring "robust accounting software."

For Scott, the software was a tool to strengthen his company. "I think of things as tools," he explains, whether they are software programs, management systems, marketing programs, or team building concepts. Acquiring smart ideas, innovations, technology, and other business tools over the years has put Mosby on a path of continuous improvement and sharp-edged competitiveness.

How do the Mosbys find these valuable tools? They look for gaps in their knowledge or company skills—that is, indicators of what they don't know. And they are self-described education junkies, soaking up tips and ideas from other remodelers and from business consultants. Until they went to their first national remodeling event in 1994, says Scott, "we were reinventing the wheel for every business method."

Meeting experienced remodelers from around the country and attending industry convention seminars showed Scott and Judy that "there are folks who can help us and expose us to so much more. The world got bigger." Mosby quickly became active in industry associations and attended remodeling conventions, taking advantage

With project photos, a classy logo, a list of wide-ranging services and easy-to-read contact information, the well-designed graphics on Mosby trucks convey a polished image of the company.

of the opportunities to network, learn, and share. Scott says, "I really went to school. Trade shows were my college; peer groups, such as the Remodeler 20 Club, were my graduate school."

He's earned numerous industry credentials, from Certified Graduate Remodeler to Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist and Certified Green Building Professional. He's served on the board of home building, remodeling, environmental, and charitable organizations. In each of these areas, he hones his knowledge and shares ideas with other professionals.

Marketing Advances

Because of the company's local name recognition and reputation for quality work, Mosby maintained volume in the early years without any formal marketing. All leads came via referrals. Judy says the company rolled out one annual marketing initiative: banana bread. She made about 300 loaves to give to past clients and vendors at the end of each year. When the gift list grew to 500, she decided that enough was enough. It was then that Mosby Building Arts began more formal marketing efforts, and the real growth began.

In 1996 a major local radio station, KMOX, was looking to start a weekly call-in program on home remodeling. With his remodeling knowledge and ease talking to people, Scott became host—and he's hosted the three-hour show every Saturday since. "I became the new expert; it gave us a strong brand," he says. "We had rocket-like success," growing from a volume of \$1.6 million in 1995 to \$2.5 million in 1996 and \$3.3 million the next year. When Mosby Building Arts set up a company website in 1996, Scott was able to refer listeners there for information. The website features a home

JACK CULIAN: Filled new position as design-build KEN WARE: Started as salesperson in 2008. 2013: Launched Right Bath, a division that completes promoted to sales manager of Right Bath and five-day remodels and product replacements business manager in 2014 Exteriors, Remodeling and Repairs (Solution Sales) JACQUIE WINSTON: Filled new position as human divisions in 2013 resources manager in 2014 KEITH KATE MARK MCCLANAHAN: BECKER: FWING: 2006: Rebranded the 2008: KIM MARTIN: 2015: Plan to launch Exteriors, a roofing, Filled new Started as Started small-job division as Purchased Filled new position siding, window replacement division marketing manager as conposition Solution Sales new facility in as fractional (partin 2010, promoted troller in as mar-2006: Rented satellite Kirkwood, Mo., time) chief financial 2016: Plan to launch to chief operating 2013 keting officer in 2012 sales office in west St. to house entire Right Kitchen, a division officer in 2011 director Louis County company for fast remodels and in 2013 product replacements for existing kitchens