

CDC Helps Teacher Achieve Her Dream

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With escalating home costs denying many first-time homebuyers the opportunity to purchase housing through conventional means, it is fulfilling to know that the Community Development Corporation of Utah (CDC) still offers affordable home buying options.

Leslie Jones is one of those homebuyers who benefited from the affordable housing programs available through CDC. Leslie is a recently married school teacher who had wanted to buy a house but was frustrated with the high cost of homes. A friend referred her to CDC and she was able to find a house she liked in Salt Lake that was closer to her new teaching job at the Monticello Academy where she will be teaching this fall. *I liked the house and the location but I still had a lot of questions and concerns about buying a home. The homebuyer education that CDC offers really helped me feel more comfortable, and Stephanie (CDC Homebuyer Education Counselor) was great to work with.*

CDC works diligently with various government agencies as well as local and national lenders to secure grant money to assist people in their efforts of achieving their homeownership dreams. One of the ways CDC was able to help Leslie was through an Own In Salt Lake Down Payment Assistance Grant offered through Salt Lake City in the amount of \$10,000. Additionally, school teachers are eligible for a HUD equity note which in Leslie's case will allow her to retain over \$15,000 in equity if she stays in the home for at least one year. CDC offers programs like these to help first-time homebuyers overcome the financial barriers that they often face when trying to purchase a home.

The home is located in a nice Salt Lake neighborhood but like many older homes it had fallen into disrepair. CDC worked with JR Riddle construction and together they were able to do extensive renovations which included interior work such as new kitchen cabinets, new carpet and vinyl flooring, new windows and blinds, updated bathrooms, and much more. Improvements to the exterior included removing debris, painting and repairing the walls, and adding a vinyl fence railing by the front stairs. All in all the improvements caught the eye of surrounding neighbors, many of whom commented on how much better the house looked.



As Leslie talked about her new home you could sense the happiness she has in having a place to call her own. *It has been fun painting and putting things together. There is still a lot we want to do, but that will come with time. We really like the house. Owning a home is a big responsibility but at the same time I feel a sense of pride knowing that this is my home.*



The dream of homeownership is one that does not materialize without the combined efforts of many people. Leslie worked hard to position herself as a homebuyer and along with the help of CDC and their established financial and housing partners she was able to attain the key to the door that allowed her to realize her piece of the American Dream.

I bought this home before I got married and I was a little stressed about having a mortgage. Now that I am married my husband assures me that we can make it work and I know we can. I am grateful for all CDC did to help me buy my house and I will definitely recommend them to my friends.