

NEIGHBORWORKS INSIDER

Showcasing the work YOU make possible

The joy in the right timing

Life doesn't always happen as we plan, and Jacquetta Porter can attest to that.

She first came to NeighborWorks Columbus six years ago, when she and her then husband set out to own a home. She was making great progress through the homeownership program, but she had to stop when she went through an unexpected divorce.

Though she had to pause officially working her way through the program, she continued attending Financial Fitness classes, so she could continue her preparation for homeownership.

A few years later though, she was able to pick up where she left off, setting out this time as a single mother of three boys.

"I was tired of renting. I have been living in an apartment for years, and I wanted to have a place with space for them to go outside and play," she said. "And I wanted something to call my own."

"Being able to qualify as a single mom on a teacher's income, I didn't think I could do it," she said.

Tonyia Cooley, Homeownership Counseling Specialist at NeighborWorks Columbus, attributes Jacquetta's success to her honesty with herself and determination through the program.

"She is self-aware and patient with the process. A few times she extended her position in the program because she wanted to go into homeownership with long-term success, not instant gratification," Tonyia said.

And today, Jacquetta is a proud homeowner who has laid down roots for her family. This type of story doesn't happen without your support. THANK YOU!



Elliott's Walk update



Elliott's Walk is coming together quick! In this second phase, 5 homes have closed, and 11 are under contract already! We only have 10 available of the 26 homes we are currently constructing in this beautiful subdivision.

Your **IMPACT**

2024

You have made some amazing things happen this year through your support of safe, fit, and affordable housing. Here are just a couple of those:



376 Counseled

This is the backbone of becoming a sustainable homeowner--one-on-one education with our highly-trained staff, ensuring homebuyers are prepared fully to become successful forever homeowners.



52 Homeowners

The number of people just this year to date (as of August) who have successfully completed the program and purchased homes. This is long-term sustainable change for our community and doesn't happen without you!



7 Financial Courses

A broader way we reach our clients and community through monthly financial education courses led by experts in their fields. This is both a tool for current clients and an entry point for homeownership.

Some little things you're doing

That actually are pretty big things...

In our homeownership counseling, some pretty exciting things are underway! A lovely married couple has been in our program since 2021. And in that time, they have been working hard to boost their credit scores for lending. We are excited to say that both parties have improved their scores, one of them by over 100 points. And, the other, has a score of almost 700!

We have a client who started with us in June. His credit is GREAT! But he came in the door not feeling very confident in his knowledge of budgeting and finances. In counseling, he worked out an expense estimate which indicated that he is potentially spending double his bring home pay every month. Two and a half months later, he now has his own budgeting process established and is tracking his spending. He is excited that he is really understanding the process, is seeing where he needs to make some adjustments, and he broke even for the month of August!

These are very different examples of what happens in the homeownership program, but all these little steps add up to long-term changes in this community. And again, we are grateful you make this happen!



THANK YOU!



SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO OUR 2ND & 3RD QUARTER DONORS!

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SAVE THE DATE



MAY 3, 2025
THE COURTYARD BEHIND
THE LOFT

We hope you can make plans to join us for our next Playing for Good, a beautiful outdoor concert and community gathering in support of safe, fit, and affordable housing. We are extremely grateful for our friends at the Loft for hosting this event, and we are thankful for all of our 2024 event sponsors. If you are interested in sponsorship or more info about the event, contact Holli at 706-320-9855 or hmelancon@nwcolumbus.org



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