

Success Story

Southern Deschutes County Mother overcomes divorce and financial disaster to obtain her dream - homeownership

Outline of Need: Janet Sicora's life had not gone the way she planned. Married with two incomes and living in her lifelong Portland area house, she was on the road to financial independence. However, after a bitter and acrimonious divorce, she was left with full custody of two infant daughters, no spousal or child support, an ex-husband who abandoned his family by literally leaving the United States and overwhelming debts. Struggling for two years to just make the house payment, Janet was forced to sell her home and move to southern Deschutes County, closer to her parents to assist with day care. She continued to struggle financially seeking out credit management companies to assist her in meeting her obligations. All agreed that bankruptcy was her best and last hope. She swallowed hard but filed. She continued to struggle but was determined to live independently, however, between part time jobs and the needs of her small children, she could not maintain her rented home and ended up living with her parents and for 18 months she and her two daughters resided in a 10x10 room. Her condition had reached rock bottom. Janet never lost faith that her dream of having a safe and secure home for her family could happen.

How Rural Development provided assistance: While reading the Newberry Eagle, Ms. Sicora noticed a public service announcement about home purchase loans for very low and low income people. She made inquiry, received and completed an application, and assisted the underwriters by providing detailed information about her family's situation. Further, Ms. Sicora had systematically and successfully built back her credit history following her bankruptcy and she showed a solid work history of two jobs. Her application was determined to be eligible for a loan with a 1% initial interest rate and a 38 year amortization. Armed with her Certificate of Eligibility, she began a search in earnest for her dream home in Southern Deschutes County.

The Result: Ms. Sicora and her two daughters found their dream house in a newer subdivision in LaPine, called Huntington Meadows. The home was built in 2005 and was a former model for the subdivision. The home allows each of the family members to have a room of their own, a great room/kitchen area, a garage for the car, and enclosed backyard. The impossible dream of homeownership has come true for the Sicora Family.

