

Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham

Thank you for your contribution to the United Way of Central Alabama Assets for Independence Individual Development Account Program.

Your funding made these success stories possible!



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Tamera Blackwell
- Date: 10/21/2008
- Value: \$72,000
- Location: Jefferson County

Ms. Blackwell, a single mother of 2, wanted to be among the first in her family to own her own home. She worked to save extra money to make her dream become a reality.



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Peterson Bridges
- Date: 04/06/2009
- Value: \$147,900
- Location: Jefferson County

Peterson heard about the program from a co-worker. Even with a degree in finance and Peterson was still able to learn a few things during Homeownership classes. She was extremely motivated to save because I wanted to buy a home and take advantage of the all time low interest rates. Her mortgage is less than what she was paying on her two bedroom apartment



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Norma Clark
- Date: 06/17/2008
- Value: \$128,000
- Location: Shelby County

After being displaced by Hurricane Katrina this family had just begun to rebuild when they heard about the IDA program and were able to save and purchase the property where they had lived for the past year.

Individual Development Account:

The Individual Development Account program allows individuals to achieve their financial goals – towards the purchase of a home, for college related expenses or to start or expand a small business. Participants learn the benefits of saving, receive financial education and credit counseling and become eligible for free income tax preparation assistance.

Thank you for helping Alabamians become financially stable and build assets for personal financial independence.
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- Asset: Education
- IDA Participant: Jeromzhaye Densmore
- Date: 05/29/2009
- IDA Funds: \$6,026
- Location: Mercer University

Even with bad credit and a lack of sufficient income Jeromzhaye discovered he was able to turn these around through classes the Neighborhood Housing. He was able to enroll in classes at Mercer University to obtain my bachelors degree in Human Services and continue to graduate school.



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Pamela Eaton-Mungin
- Date: 05/22/2009
- Value: \$163,800
- Location: Shelby County

Pamela says, "I think the program is excellent- nothing but good things to say about the program- the people in IDA REALLY worked hard for me."



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Kristi Gilmore
- Date: 05/23/2007
- Value: \$146,100
- Location: Shelby County

Kristi heard about the IDA program at work and used her tax refund for a down payment. Her kids kept the saving on point by reminding her not to spend so they could have a house. She was able to save in 6 months and is so glad she did.

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-Asset: Education
-IDA Participant: Melanie Guevara
-Date: 06/11/2009
-Location: Herzing University
Melanie says, "I was in nursing school when my funding ran out. That's when I found the IDA program. After I saved in the IDA program, I was able to complete my nursing degree. I am a nurse now and I love it!"



-Asset: Home
-IDA Participant: Shaujuna Hatcher
-Date: 06/19/2009
-Value: \$35,000
-Location: Jefferson County
Shaujuna heard about the program through a family member and went to the classes at Birmingham Homeownership Center. She says, "I was not good at saving and had more money going out than I had coming in. Because the program rewarded me by matching my money, this motivated me to save. My biggest challenge was not spending extra money because I had it."



-Asset: Home
-IDA Participant: Glenda Hosmer
-Date: 11/28/2007
-Value: \$84,500
-Location: Jefferson County

Glenda says, "It was an extreme blessing for me- I wouldn't be a homeowner without it."

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- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Nicole Johnson
- Date: 09/10/2009
- Value: \$157,900
- Location: Jefferson County

Nicole found out about the IDA program through a co-worker and felt it would be good for her. She wanted a home but was living from pay check to pay check. Her motivation stemmed from the fact that this was almost too good to be true and if I wanted a home I had to follow the rules of the program. The program worked for her and she was able to purchase her dream home.



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Kymberlee Key-Holmes
- Date: 08/25/2010
- Value: \$110,000
- Location: Jefferson County

A member of her church told Kymberlee about the IDA program. She was divorced and had weak credit. She was motivated because she felt this was her only chance to own a home. The IDA program helped her set goals and a budget. Kymberlee says, "That changed my life. I now have a three bedroom, two bath and a two car garage-all thanks to the IDA program. "



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Anika Lanier
- Date: 11/24/2009
- Value: \$179,900
- Location: Jefferson County

Anika found out about the IDA program through NHSB. She wanted to purchase a home so she could provide a stable home for her children in a good location for schools. She really needed the matched savings to buy her home and after working with United Way she was able to move up from a small 2 bedroom apartment to her dream home.

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-Asset: Home
 -IDA Participant: Elijah Odeleye
 -Date: 06/09/2009
 -Value: \$109,900
 -Location: Jefferson County
 Elijah moved here from another country and was grateful to learn of the many wonderful opportunities here. Elijah says, "The program was the best ever and Neighborhood Housing class instructor was wonderful."



-Asset: Education
 -IDA Participant: Katherine Petterson
 -Location: Jefferson State Community College
 Katherine heard about the IDA program at Jeff State and needed additional funding to pay for school. She thought if she received more education that she could get a better paying job. After completing financial education courses and an education plan with United Way, Katherine was able to graduate from Jeff State.



-Asset: Education
 -IDA Participant: Makeda Pinkney
 -IDA Funds: \$3,160
 -Location: University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Makeda heard about the IDA program from a friend and was motivated to save when she learned her funds would be matched. She says, "I didn't think about missing the money I put in that account because I knew I was getting three times back." The IDA program has reduced her education debt, and helped her to pay for summer classes. Makeda was able to graduate with a Master's in Public Administration.

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- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Elaina Pribyl
- Date: 09/02/2009
- Value: \$125,000
- Location: Jefferson County

After hearing about the IDA program at Jeff State, Elaina shared the information with her husband. They attended several classes and faced several barriers prior to purchasing. Elaina says, "Thanks to the IDA program I now a proud homeowner."



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Antionette Reeve
- Date: 05/27/2009
- Value: \$149,000
- Location: Jefferson County

A family member told Antionette about the program and at the time she did not have any savings. Through attending classes she learned it was important to make adjustments in order to achieve goals. Her credit rating improved and she was able to make her dream a reality.



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Kevin Sargent
- Date: 04/28/2008
- Value: \$85,000
- Location: St. Clair County

Kevin heard about the program at Jeff State even though he lived outside of the city. He says, "This was good for me because I needed to become more financially independent. The class helped me line up my priorities."

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-Asset: Education
 -IDA Participant: Paul Smith
 -Date: 04/28/2010
 -IDA Funds: \$4,226
 -Location: University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Even with a wife and three kids, Paul was able to save money for my education because the IDA program took away two-thirds of the cost. Paul says, "We are so grateful for this program for me to have been able to graduate from UAB with an Accounting degree and stay debt-free."



-Asset: Education
 -IDA Participant: Jacob Luke Smith
 -Date: 01/13/2010
 -IDA Funds: \$4,770
 -Location: Wallace State Community College
 Jacob's mother heard about the program and enrolled on his behalf. Jacob says, "This made me want to work and study harder because she believed in me and I had to save and make passing grades to live up to her expectations. I am doing really well and my Mom is pleased that the IDA has paid for my tuition"



-Asset: Home
 -IDA Participant: Nepheteria Stewart
 -Date: 06/30/2010
 -Value: \$168,244
 -Location: Jefferson County
 Nepheteria heard about the program through her landlord. She was tired of renting and wanted the sense of owning her own home for herself and her children. She says, "I am more relaxed and happier now that I own a home. I am becoming more responsible and I'm putting a lot into my house because I own it."

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- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Leslie Thomas
- Date: 06/18/2010
- Value: \$128,000
- Location: Jefferson County

Leslie heard about the IDA program when United Way came to AG Gaston Boys & Girls Club during the pledge drive. After getting to work on repairing her credit by saving and budgeting, she has been able to accomplish a major life goal that seemed like a more difficult challenge than getting an education. She says, "My life has improved for the long term. It was hard saving as a single parent, but I saved and budgeted and made lifestyle changes that helped me purchase a home and balance my spending on other things to, like tithing and donations."



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Lorena & Michael Todd
- Date: 03/31/2010
- Value: \$124,800
- Location: Jefferson County

A church member at the church Michael is a pastor at shared the IDA program with him and his wife, Lorena. Michael says, "My motivation was if the people that I was leading could have a home I could also."



- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Lakeisha Turner
- Date: 10/09/2008
- Value: \$95,000
- Location: Jefferson County

Lakeisha learned about the program at Birmingham Homeownership Center and thought it was too good to be true. She thought she didn't make enough money to own a home. She says, "My motivation for saving was to improve the quality of life for my family."

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- Asset: Home
- IDA Participant: Mia Wesley
- Date: 10/29/2009
- Value: \$154,900
- Location: Jefferson County

Mia says, "The match money was a great motivator for me to keep saving for my home. It has had a tremendous impact- it kept me focused on saving, and the financial education helped me when I bought my home. I had to learn discipline to save."