

Good Morning, my name is Dorothy Delvalle. I am a single mother of one and approximately 4 years ago I embarked on a journey. This was one that I never before thought that I would be able to pursue. What I am referring to is an American Dream of owning my very own home. Before I started this journey I really had doubts as to whether I could really accomplish the purchase of a home for my son and I. Someone told me about the IDA program and how it was helping low income families like myself purchase homes. At first I was quite a doubter. How could a single mother of one have a down payment and become qualified for a home on such a low income. So I started the program saving and becoming aware of what my credit standing was.

My EITC helped me pay off any outstanding debt and put money away for my portion of a down payment and also closing costs. EITC has also helped me in the past with other purchases as well such as a car, computer, paying bills ahead for a month. I cannot tell you what a feeling it is to have monthly bills paid off a month ahead. It takes the pressure off when paying for car repairs or paying for a medical bill that you did not expect to happen.

I have to say the experience of buying a home was the worst and the best. After I scraped, saved and sacrificed for the savings goal I was pre approved by a bank. Great! I had my pre approved letter; I was golden now and I could shop. Well, I was approved for a \$97,000 loan. Wow, what a let down. So in the spirit of the hunt I look at more dumps then you can imagine. One home I looked at was really bad. The cover to the circuit breaker box fell off into my friend's hands. Fell right off the wall and the back of the house shook when my friend tapped it to check how sturdy it was since it was built on the incline. So how do I have what I have? I received a loan through the USDA and Rural Homes. A subsidized loan.

Without the IDA program and EITC I would have never been able to purchase a home. Since I have purchased my home I feel that I can do anything and for the first time I feel as though I am on solid ground. I am no longer giving my money away to help the landlord pay for their real estate.

In closing all I can say is that EITC is used for more good than you can imagine and it feels good to know that as a parent you can give your child a home, have a reliable vehicle, save for there college or just keep it for a rainy day.

Thank you.