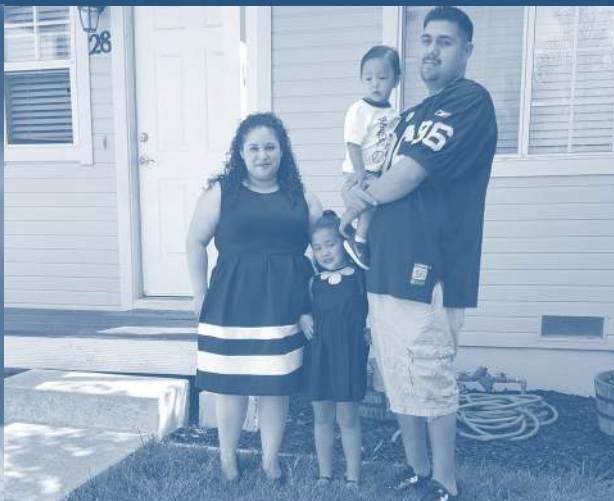


HOME Success Stories

Louisiana



The HOME Coalition
2015

CONTACT

Melinda Taylor
(337) 261-5041
melinda@
habitatlafayette.org

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Location: Lafayette

Project: Habitat For Humanity Homebuyer Assistance

HOME: \$62,500

Total Cost: \$105,000

Other Federal: \$12,000
Community Development
Block Grants

Units: 1

District: LA-03

HOME SUCCESS STORY

Louisiana

Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette

Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette (Lafayette Habitat) is based in Lafayette, Louisiana and is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization, Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). Both are operated on Christian principles and seek to put God's love into action by building homes, communities, and hope.

Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable homes, by advocating for fair and just housing policies, and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. It was founded on the conviction that every man, woman, and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety.

The Alfred Family

Since 2013, Lafayette Habitat has built 13 homes in Lafayette, Louisiana's McComb-Veazey neighborhood. Six of these homes were constructed using HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds provided by the Lafayette Consolidated Government Department of Community Development. Without HOME, many families—including the Alfreds—would not have been able to become homeowners.

For years, Ms. Fredrika Alfred, her son, Damarko, and her daughter, Da'Lasia, lived in a small apartment in one of Lafayette's public housing developments. Although mold was a common issue in the home, the Alfreds had to wait days for management to respond to their concerns and requests for status updates.



Ms. Alfred was very concerned about the dangerous neighborhood in which her family lived. Cars and homes were frequently broken into, causing Ms. Alfred to worry about how the neighborhood would influence her 14-year old son. Unfortunately, because of their financial situation, she could not do much more than hope for the best. However, after the birth of her daughter, Ms. Alfred realized that her growing family was too large for their current apartment and something needed to change. When she heard about Lafayette Habitat, Ms. Alfred immediately applied to become a Habitat partner family. Working with this Habitat affiliate, she realized that the goal of homeownership was within reach.

Lafayette Habitat secured \$62,500 in HOME funds and \$12,000 in Community Development Block Grants to acquire the land for the Alfreds' home.

Today, the Alfred family resides in a happier place, inside and out. Ms. Alfred has already noticed positive changes in her son, including his growing self-confidence. With a new home and the promise of a more secure future, the Alfred family believes they can take on any challenge.

CONTACT

Marie Hurt
(800) 239-7379
director@southernunitedneighborhoods.org

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Location: New Orleans

Project: Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation After Hurricane Katrina

HOME: \$800,000

Total Cost: \$1M

Other Federal: \$50,000
Section 4 Capacity Building Grants

Units: 32

District: LA-02

HOME SUCCESS STORY

Louisiana

Southern United Neighborhoods

Southern United Neighborhoods (SUN) is a 501(c)(3) public charity that was founded in March 2010 by low- and moderate-income people to use research and training to combat the poverty, discrimination, and community deterioration that prevents low-income individuals from taking advantage of their rights and opportunities.

SUN works to create affordable housing programs and provide financial literacy services in order to help families get out of poverty and create citizen wealth in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.

Currently, SUN uses HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds to support its owner-occupied rehabilitation project in the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood in New Orleans, Louisiana. This program helps families bring their homes up to code so that they may live in sustainable, durable housing.

Lower 9th Ward Rehabilitation

Since 2012, SUN has partnered with the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development to rehabilitate owner-occupied housing in the Lower 9th Ward. This partnership uses HOME funds to pay for certified contractors that SUN hires and manages to complete repairs, bring homes up to code, and create sustainable housing for low-income and elderly residents. Without HOME, many residents—including Mr. Johnny Davis—would not have been able to return to his home after Hurricane Katrina.

Born in 1943, Mr. Davis is an African-American veteran and lifetime resident of the Lower 9th Ward. He was just one payment away from paying off his mortgage when Hurricane Katrina devastated his home and his community.

Afterward, a series of unfortunate circumstances kept him from rebuilding. Three weeks after the storm hit, his wife died from cancer. Mr. Davis received insurance money and Road Home money to rehabilitate his property, but fell victim to contractor fraud. Like many other residents in the area, he lost thousands of dollars in the process.

After relocating to Gretna, Louisiana, Mr. Davis began saving what little he could in order to fix his home. The stress and displacement from the storm made things more difficult, but Mr. Davis never lost hope.

In 2013, Mr. Davis reached out to SUN for help, and the organization provided him with \$124,000 in HOME funds to renovate his home, including the installation of framing, siding, and a new roof.

Pre-Katrina, the Lower 9th Ward had one of the highest rates of homeownership in New Orleans. Together, SUN, the City of New Orleans, and HOME are helping to restore those rates by helping residents return to their homes.

