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FOR THE HOCKENBERRY FAMILY OF HARRISBURG, HAPPINESS IS “HOME SWEET HOME”

Harrisburg, Pa. One could say Tania Hockenberry and her two young daughters are living the American dream. Hockenberry is a first-time homeowner and the first homebuyer in the new Mount Pleasant Homes development, located in the South Allison Hill section of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Hockenberry has lived in the area for five years, but until a couple of months ago was unable to afford a home. Her dream of homeownership became a reality in late February when the Hockenberrys became the first family to move into a “Energy-Star Certified” four-bedroom home in the mixed-income neighborhood.

FHLBank Pittsburgh member [Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania](#) provided \$500,000 in Affordable Housing Program (AHP) funds to help meet total development costs of \$5 million for the 25 single-family home development. Under the AHP, Citizens Bank has utilized more than \$7 million and created approximately 850 units of affordable housing to help low-income Pennsylvanians.

The new neighborhood is part of an ongoing revitalization effort being coordinated by the City of Harrisburg, the Community Action Commission and project sponsor Tri-County Housing Development Corporation, Ltd. (Tri-County HDC, Ltd). Five of the planned 25 single-family homes have been built to date, with construction of another five units beginning this summer.

Hockenberry chose yellow for her home’s exterior color because it’s a happy color. She said, “We love to come home now. This is our home. When you rent, it is something that’s never yours. Seeing the expression on my girls’ faces was fascinating. I felt whole. I promised to give them a home. I go to school and work full-time, and to be able to actually fulfill that, it made me so happy.”

Adding to Hockenberry’s happiness are her low utility bills and reduced monthly expenditures –both the result of owning a “Energy-Star Certified” home equipped with ENERGY STAR® appliances, a high-efficiency electric heat pump, energy efficient windows, and other cost-saving amenities. As an additional purchase incentive, the homes are located in a Pennsylvania Keystone Opportunity Zone, meaning that homebuyers pay no city, county or school district real estate taxes or Pennsylvania income taxes until 2020

Raymond Spencer, Executive Director of Tri-County Housing, stated, “Since 1990, Tri-County has developed 668 units of affordable rental and for-sale housing. The organization is dedicated to its mission of revitalizing communities and providing safe, decent housing for low and moderate income individuals and families. We are very

pleased to assist the Hockenberry family to attain their dream of homeownership and welcome them to our Mount Pleasant Homes planned community.”

To read more about the good works of Tri-County HDC, Ltd., [click here.](#)