

The House that KCEOC Built

KCEOC built a miniature duplicate of a real house for low-income families served through KCEOC's Housing Development Program. An official set of house plans was scaled down by the architects/engineers at Standard Homes, Inc. to help KCEOC with this process, in order for the duplicate to be as close to the original as possible. The house was completed with many features to be used for the energy conservation education program.

The house includes green building techniques, such bamboo hardwood flooring, insulated walls and ceilings that can be easily viewed through a partially exposed roof, and locally harvested lumber. KCEOC also added real shingles cut to scale, lighting, and wood, cut and painted to look like real vinyl siding. The house also features a front porch and is permanently placed on a trailer for mobile use.

After speaking with the children about the many components of energy conservation, KCEOC leads into speaking about career options. Teaching the children about the construction field and employment opportunities, helps broaden their future career prospects, leading to self-sufficiency. Many local children end up focusing on medical and education fields and do not think about opportunities in construction, such as architecture, carpentry, engineering, excavation, HVAC, masonry, and plumbing. KCEOC wants children to know there are other options. By giving them a tangible "object" they can see and touch, these career opportunities may be visualized, the pieces connected, and the goal a reality.

KCEOC also uses the home to teach pre-purchase and post-purchase homeowners how to sustain their home in a safe and reliable condition. This hands-on approach has been found to be extremely effective, especially for those who have never touched real housing materials. When KCEOC first introduced the miniature home live on Facebook, at a homeownership workshop, one of the participants stated, "This is my house." At the time, she was in the preliminary phase of having a home built and was able to get up close to see the layout of the home and some of the features she would have when her home construction began. Home ownership is a defining moment for people in poverty. We are glad to say that we expect this client to be in her home by the end of June, 2018.

KCEOC partners with schools to conduct energy conservation and employment opportunity trainings, through the use of the miniature home. The agency also partners with USDA-Rural Development and local lenders when conducting pre-purchase and post-purchase workshops, teaching homebuyers/homeowners about budgeting/savings, along with basic home repair to sustain their home in a safe and reliable condition.

KCEOC has reached in excess of 5,000 community members by placing the house in the local Daniel Boone Festival Parade. Also, KCEOC won the Innovation Award from Community Action Kentucky. The house has also been used to provide training at a pre-purchase and post-purchase homeowner workshop reaching 18 individuals. In addition, 85 children have been educated with curriculum developed by KCEOC on energy conservation and employment opportunities, all in the nine months since KCEOC completed the home. *(see 2 pictures below)*

