



community development partnership

Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape

CDP Housing helps family get on their feet

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Christopher Reid
Resident, Little Homesteads Harwich Port



Christopher Reid first came to the Cape in 2002 when he left Jamaica for summer employment in Provincetown. For the next five years he split his time between the two places, making his living working in restaurants around the area. In 2010 he decided to settle here permanently, “There was more work and opportunity on the Cape than in Jamaica,” says Chris.

Chris had three children from a previous marriage still living in Jamaica. He hoped that at some point he could bring them to the States. During his visits to Jamaica, Chris met Tamara, a hairdresser and cosmetologist.

They married and she moved to the Cape in 2014, and found employment as a housekeeper. She and Chris struggled to find a place to live, but finally located a studio in Eastham. “We found it very difficult to find housing. It was either too much money or there was nothing available on the market,” says Chris. They decided that once they were established they would send for the children.

Their Eastham apartment was very small and overpriced. They became more desperate after the landlord refused to address a problem with the plumbing and they went without water for months. Tamara was now pregnant with their son and forced to shower at her workplace. A friend had told them about the CDP, so Chris stopped by the office one afternoon to enquire about rentals. He also

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showed Alice Demoracksi, CDP's Director of Property Management, the buckets of water he was bringing home from work every night for cooking and drinking.

Tamara was now 9 months pregnant and the stress of the rental situation was wearing on her. She didn't know that Chris applied for affordable rental housing at the CDP. Just before Tamara went into labor, Alice phoned Chris and told him there was a three-bedroom apartment available at Little Homesteads, the CDP's housing development in Harwich Port. "We were so lucky with the timing," recalls Tamara. "After I delivered my son I went straight from the hospital to this new home."

Tamara and Chris now live in the three-bedroom unit with their four children, aged 3-20 and mother-in-law, Novelette. They both work full time as chefs at Knot's Landing. Two of their children are enrolled at Nauset Schools and their twenty-year old son is working at Wychmere Beach Club.

Next month they celebrate three years living at Little Homesteads and everyone is extremely happy with the current living situation. "It is a good size for us and we can manage it," says Tamara. She adds with a smile that "it is also part of a nice community, the bus stops in front of the house, and it is near the supermarket."



What is next for the Reid family? Since they have been staying at Little Homesteads, they have been able to save money and plan to buy a house. Chris says he hopes to participate in the CDP's First Time Home Buyer program. "We were so happy to get this house," says Tamara. "This has helped us as we can manage the rent much better than our previous place. We can now save a bit more money."