



community development partnership

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

A Place to Call Home

“Having this place—it’s like a weight lifted off our shoulders. It’s amazing.”

– Felicia Potter, CDP Resident, Fred Bell Way, Wellfleet

When Felicia and Shamar talk about their new home at Fred Bell Way in Wellfleet, their words echo a mixture of relief, gratitude, and pride. After years of uncertainty, shared bedrooms, makeshift kitchens, and relentless moves across Cape Cod, they’ve finally found stability—for themselves and their young son, Jay—at a CDP-owned affordable housing property.

For Felicia, who came to the Cape at 15 after spending a decade in the foster care system in Minnesota, life hasn’t always been easy. “I’ve moved more times than I can count,” she says. “I did live-in nanny work just to have a place to stay.”

Shamar, originally from Jamaica, has a similar story of resilience. After working at a Florida yacht club, he moved north, seeking a safer, more grounded life. “Cape Cod just felt better,” he recalls. “It felt like a place where we could build something.”

That “something” came after years of applying for housing—20 to 25 applications at least, they estimate. One offer came through for a place in Yarmouth, but it was too far and too expensive. Then the CDP called.

“Once we got the call from CDP, we dropped everything else,” Shamar says. “This was the right fit—affordable, close to work, and a real kitchen!”

Felicia recalls the moment as life changing. The apartment at Fred Bell Way was not just bigger—it had everything they’d been missing: two bedrooms, a kitchen they could cook in, and a yard where their son could play. “Since moving, everything’s changed,” she shares. “Jay has his own room for the first time. We cook meals, play outside, and—most importantly—we feel safe. That kind of stability means everything to me.”



**Shamar and Felicia at the
CDP's Summer Evening on the Farm
August 2025**

A Home That Changes Everything

Since moving into their new apartment in April, the family has finally had the space and peace to breathe—and dream. Felicia is thinking of returning to school, perhaps to pursue a degree in social work. Shamar, who already has certifications in electrical work, is eager to complete his training and get licensed.

But most of all, it's about the little things that make a house a home. They've found joy in routines many take for granted—cooking real meals, giving Jay his own space to grow, and spending time outdoors together. "It's huge for him—and for us," Felicia says.

They've also found community. Their neighbors have children around Jay's age, creating an instant playgroup and offering mutual support. "It's so important for kids to have stability," Felicia adds. "I didn't have that growing up, and I want better for him." Shamar adds, "It's not just about us anymore. We're building something better for our son. That's what drives us."

Support Systems That Work

Behind this new chapter is a strong network of support. Felicia and Shamar were guided by the Homeless Prevention Council (HPC) throughout their journey—navigating a maze of paperwork and waitlists with the help of people like Dottie. "It was a lot of work," Felicia admits. "But having someone help us through every form, every deadline—it made the difference."

And the support hasn't stopped since moving in.

Felicia spoke with gratitude about CDP staff — Cindi, Kris, and Joe — whose kindness and responsiveness helped them feel truly at home. "Joe comes out right away when we have any issues," Shamar adds. "Everyone has been kind, responsive, and just really helpful."

Looking Ahead

Now with stability, Felicia and Shamar are planning for the future. They're managing their finances, exploring new business opportunities, and actively thinking about long-term goals for themselves and Jay.

"We're not just surviving anymore—we're starting to think about what it means to thrive," Felicia says. "This home has given us that chance."

Their story is a powerful reminder of what affordable housing can make possible—not just shelter, but a foundation for stability, ambition, and hope.