

Lakeisha

“Mom, let’s go past the house to see if the ‘sold’ sign is out.” Lakeisha’s 8-year old daughter, Ayonna, and 11-year old son, Jaleek, were excited to have their own place. Lakeisha, 28 and a single mother, closed on her first home in July 2004.

She got most of the things she wanted in a house: a finished family room, laundry room and nice-size backyard. She would have liked a 2nd bathroom and a garage, but these can be added later.

They moved in August 1st. The house came with a remodeled kitchen, large yard with a shed, 3 bedrooms, an outdoor deck and a walk out patio from the family room downstairs. Following the house inspector’s recommendations, she had the attic vented and secured the deck; and reactivated the alarm system which lowered insurance costs. Her uncle is helping her paint. She says “it feels good not having to go to the laundromat, especially in winter.”

Several years ago, Lakeisha was on Section 8’s waiting list and living with her mother. Section 8 pays a portion of the rent so that low-income families are not paying more than 1/3 of their income on housing. When she received her voucher, she moved out - and at 22, she was on her own with two children. Lakeisha was on Section 8 for five years when her caseworker, seeing that Lakeisha was working to get ahead, referred her to Rya Crafts at Tabor’s Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. FSS works with Section 8 recipients so they can increase their income and manage their finances to become self-sufficient.

When Lakeisha joined FSS in July of 2002, she was going to school full-time to become an LPN and working when she could as a Nurses Assistant at Conestoga View. She received cash assistance and food stamps to help support her family.

*With the help of Tabor support of her family, Lakeisha has made great strides in the past few years working her family out of difficult times. Just a few years ago, Lakeisha was a nurses’ aid, on welfare and living in Section 8 housing. Today she is an LPN, has saved money through Tabor’s Family Savings Account [now **Matched Savings Accounts**] and Family Self-Sufficiency programs, and is hoping to become a homeowner in the near future. Lakeisha was referred to Tabor’s Family Self-Sufficiency program where her counselor helped her develop a budget, increase her income and assisted her in setting goals to save for a home of her own. When we asked Lakeisha what she is most proud of in her work at Tabor, she commented “getting through school and passing my LPN board test. My Mom and sister were very supportive throughout the process. When I needed to study, one of them would help me out by babysitting my two kids.”*

Congratulations to Lakeisha for her perseverance and high achievement in her work here at Tabor!