

PERSISTENCE, PRIDE AND SUPPORT HELP REALIZE HOMEOWNER'S "DREAM"

TRENTON, NJ – A born-and-raised Trentonian, Herman Tucker wanted to raise his children in the New Jersey Capitol City he has always called home. As a single father, Tucker, with a heartfelt smile across his face, explained, “I was given the opportunity to raise my children on my own, and was determined to give them a secure, healthy life.” Owning his own home in a comfortable neighborhood was a crucial part of that life, and through persistence and a strong sense of pride in himself and his family, he was determined to become a homeowner.

“We were living in a small apartment, and all I wanted was to own a safe home for my family,” Tucker said. “The homes I saw in Trenton, however, were either not affordable or not livable. I wanted to achieve my dream, the classic ‘American Dream’ of owning a new home, while still being able to support my family.”

Although Tucker already had a stable job, he was spending most of his salary on rent and utilities, unable to put any money aside for savings. He realized then he needed help, but was unable to find a community program or group willing to assist him. “There are plenty of programs in Trenton for single mothers, but few to none for single fathers,” Tucker explained. “I was in the position where I know I needed to do something, but just didn’t know how to do it. That is when I read an article about new housing being built in Trenton by Leewood Real Estate Group.”

Tucker and his daughter sat down to draft an email to the people at Leewood explaining their situation and their desire to own a new home. “I contacted Leewood as a leap of faith,” Tucker said. “After we sent that email, we prayed for a miracle. It turned out, Leewood was the answer.”

Claribel Santiago, a Homeownership Consultant for Leewood Real Estate Group, LLC, the Trenton-based builder located at 128 South Warren Street, Trenton, responded to Tucker’s email and set up a meeting. She explained Leewood’s new, innovative concept in homeownership – purchase a new two-family home, live in one and rent out the companion apartment. The rent received from the leased apartment will then help pay for the homeowner’s mortgage. “In most instances,” Santiago explained, “with a new Leewood Energy Efficient home, the buyer’s mortgage and utilities payment, with the help of just 50% of the income from the rental unit, is about the same or even less than what they were paying for rent and utilities.”

“I was thrilled when Claribel explained the ‘Leewood Experience’ to me,” explained Tucker. “It was then that I realized my dream has come true! Leewood did not turn me away. They helped me through the entire process.”

To further assist Tucker, Leewood Real Estate Group set up “First-time Homebuyers Counseling” to show him exactly how he would make monthly payments and still have the opportunity to save. “The session was for a few hours on one day only,” said Tucker. “I brought in my monthly costs, explained to financial specialists what I was spending a month on certain things, and they showed me what I would have to cut back on and what I could save while making my monthly mortgage payments. They walked me through the entire process and were very helpful. It gave me the confidence to know that I could make this happen, and I really would become a homeowner.”

Today, Herman Tucker is a proud homeowner and father with a new outlook on life. He rented the apartment to his brother, sister-in-law and their child. The entire family gets together for barbecues in their backyard area and enjoys living in a secure, new home. “I have achieved my dream with the help of Leewood Real Estate,” said Tucker. “I would suggest contacting them to anyone! I have referred a number of people, who are in the same place I was, to Leewood. I am so grateful that Leewood was there to help me through the purchase of my first home!” Looking into the future, Tucker said that he and his brother plan on continuing to save and eventually purchase another new home, preferably a Leewood home.

If you have the same dream as Mr. Tucker and would like to find out if you too can own your new home, Leewood Real Estate Group, LLC has new, affordable communities of two-family and single-family homes throughout Trenton. For more information, please visit the Sales Office at 128 South Warren Street, Trenton, on the web at www.LeewoodNJ.com or call (609) 695-3300, x 101.

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