

Belair-Edison Neighborhoods, Inc. Works for Homebuyers...



George Johnson thought he had homeownership all figured out, until he realized that his son had gotten lead poisoning while living in the house he had hoped to buy.

Then, he and his wife, heard about Live Baltimore, an organization that promotes Baltimore City through their Buying into Baltimore tours, and decided that would be a good place to start their new search. At the Eastside Tour, they happened upon Belair-Edison Neighborhoods, Inc.'s booth.

That day and over the next few months, they learned from BENI that as a teacher, George was eligible to purchase a foreclosed property at a discounted price through the Good Neighborhood Next Door program. They learned that there was a foreclosure in Belair-Edison that faced Herring Run Park and they would be eligible to use a Healthy Neighborhoods Home Improvement loan to renovate the property.

As the Live Baltimore bus drove them down Chesterfield through Belair-Edison, George kept thinking "this isn't bad..." Later, he and his wife drove back to Belair-Edison and peeped through the windows of the foreclosed property. Something spoke to them; maybe it was the giant sycamores that lined the block or the 300 acre park that faced the home. They realized this was their house!

Knowing it would be an undertaking, George came back to BENI. We were there for him at every step of the way. After working all day, he would spend late nights sanding floors and painting, and BENI was even there to lend a sympathetic ear. After two years, the renovations were finally complete, and the Johnsons moved their growing family into the house that BENI helped build.

In 2007, George joined the board of Belair-Edison Neighborhoods, Inc. because he wanted to return the favor and support the organization as we continued our work to help make homeownership dreams a reality for others.