

# BENI'S FIRST TIME BUYER WORKSHOP BRINGS OLD FRIENDS TOGETHER

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Seerena Jones on the front porch of her new home. Like a good neighbor, she turns her porchlight on every night.

Recently, two old friends reconnected at a Belair-Edison Neighborhoods' Homebuyer Workshop. A couple of months later, both of these young ladies found themselves buying homes in Belair-Edison!

One of these young ladies is Miss Seerena Jones. She started the home buying process nearly a year ago, looking long and hard for the best deal on financing. Seerena waited patiently, stayed on top of the latest and greatest closing cost assistance programs, and was able to qualify for the Community Block Grant closing cost assistance program after taking BENI's first time homebuyers workshop.

She landed an especially great deal on a beautiful house on the 3100 block of Chesterfield Avenue. Coincidentally, her friend from the workshop moved nearby on Brendan a week later!

Seerena chose to live in Belair-Edison after living

on the Northeast side of Baltimore all of her life. The close proximity to public transportation, convenience of goods and services in the neighborhood, and the affordability of these large porch front homes made this the perfect neighborhood for her.

Her street is tree lined and feels welcoming, and she says she can see the sense of pride her neighbors have in their homes.

Her home features a unique floor plan with a huge eat-in kitchen, back "garden style" sitting room, and the brick front porch that she has always wanted. The home has been newly painted and refreshed, and still has some original detail such as the beautiful antique radiator covers, original 3 piece molding and parquet hard wood floors upstairs. It even has a club basement providing plenty of space for Seerena to be able grow.

Now, the fun really begins as Seerena starts to work on turning her new house into a furnished home. She loves thrift stores and antique shops and will take her time setting it up. She imagines creating a library to hold her large collection of books.

After just two weeks, she is already able to identify seven of her neighbors by their first names, including attempting to befriend "Sassy," the dog next door. All good signs that she will make a great neighbor and community member!

Only 30 years old and already a homeowner, Seerena's future is looking very bright. She balances being a Morgan State student studying social work, with a full time job downtown. Welcome to the neighborhood, Seerena!