

Better Housing Coalition - Independent/Unaffiliated Charity CVC #03624

## Veteran Gives Back to Build Strong Community

Kenya Wheeler is one of the thousands of disabled veterans whose fear of predatory lending made her shy away from home ownership. When she saw promotional materials from the Better Housing Coalition offering down payment assistance and grant funding, it sounded too good to be true.

"After working with home buying counselors from BHC and Housing Opportunities Made Equal, I realized how authentic BHC was," said the Army veteran. "They wanted to set me up for success and were always a phone call away."

Wheeler fell in love with a new bungalow with a first-floor master bedroom that BHC built in Richmond's Blackwell neighborhood. She bought the home in August 2012 and enjoys being part of a growing community of BHC homeowners.

So far, Wheeler's energy bills are low and maintenance is easy. Best of all, her mortgage is \$100 less per month than her former rent on her two-bedroom apartment.

Having served her country, Wheeler now serves as a volunteer social worker with her church and as a co-leader of Girl Scout troop 5023, engaging ninth and tenth - grade girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities. Her daughter Promise will graduate from VCU next spring, and Kenya is now foster parent to a 14-year old girl. She says, "I am blessed to be able to give another child a good home."

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