



Bank On It

A newsletter for Rapid Assets Savers

2nd Quarter 2003

A New Home For The Barkins

Larry and Desiree Barkins have a new home, thanks to the IDA program. Larry used the IDA savings and match along with funds from the City of Pine



Bluff Office of Economic and Community Development Department to help with the down payment and closing costs. Larry and Desiree said they would not have been able to purchase their home without the IDA program. With the match funds that were not needed for closing, Larry is using to do some repairs and “fixing up.”

News From Our Partners

- BGACDC in Marvell held Economic Skills Workshops, with 17 participants. Beatrice Shelby, the Executive Director is conducting the workshop.
- Five participants attended Certified Homebuyer Training Counseling at Lee County CDC, learning the steps in the home buying process.
- Pine Bluff Jefferson County EOC held their first information session in Star City and have five participants signed up for the program. Additional information sessions were held in Gould and Grady. For more information contact Terry Bearden at 870-536-0046.
- Sacred Heart Southern Missions began recruiting for the IDA Program in Horn Lake, Mississippi. LaDonna Murphree handles the case management and Economic Fitness Classes for their participants.

What's Happening in Mississippi and Helena

- In Helena we have a total of 49 accounts, and the program is proving to be very successful. Two participants are ready to buy homes and have been approved to receive their match money from the Federal Home Loan Bank.
- In Mississippi we have 7 participants in the IDA Program. Since June, Mindy has been going to Mississippi every Thursday to get to know people in the communities and to help people learn more about IDAs! If you live in eastern Mississippi or have relatives in eastern Mississippi have them give Mindy a call at 1.870.816.1104.

Budgeting & Savings Tips

By Kim Burgess, IDA Participant

1. Write your monthly income and expenses on poster board. Write down the total amount of your income, and then create a checklist of your bills. Check each bill off as you pay it. Kim has the poster taped to her bedroom wall where she can see it when she walks into her room. This keeps her money matters right before her eyes.
2. Buy a clear hanging shoe storage unit that holds about 12 pairs of shoes and hang it on a door. Label each slot with the name of the bill and the due date. As each bills comes in, put it in the appropriate slot. This way they are in your view and don't get lost in a drawer. This will help you remember to pay the bill on time and avoid those late fees.
3. Buy in bulk and cook just enough for your family. Frozen veggies are perfect, Kim says, that way you can make sure not to waste, cook only what you will eat in one setting.

Economic Skills Class Schedule 2003

Pine Bluff

All Pine Bluff classes will be held at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Good Faith Fund, 2304 W. 29th Ave.

July

- July 10 Spending as a Habit—Saving as a Goal
- July 16 Renting, Leasing or Buying
- July 22 Rapid Assets Information Meeting

August

- Aug. 7 Financial Services
- Aug. 14 Rapid Assets Information Meeting
- Aug. 20 Asset Specific Training/Homeownership/Repair

September

- Sept. 4 Credit Management—Solving Debt Problems
- Sept. 17 Rapid Assets Information Meeting
- Sept. 25 Money Management

Helena

All Helena classes will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Entergy AP&L Building on Richmond Hill Drive

July

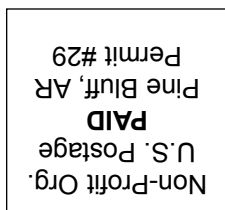
- July 8 Financial Services
- July 15 Rapid Assets Information Meeting

August

- Aug. 5 Credit Management—Solving Debt Problems
- Aug. 12 Rapid Assets Information Meeting

September

- Sept. 9 Renting, Leasing and Buying
- Sept. 16 Rapid Assets Information Meeting



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