Rapid Assets Expands to Helena

The Rapid Assets IDA Program that began in Pine Bluff, expanded its full scope of services into Helena, Ark. on October 9th.

We welcome Mindy Maupin, the new Helena program coordinator. Mindy comes to the IDA program from First National Bank of Phillips County where she has worked for five years as a customer service representative. Mindy’s knowledge of banking will be a great asset as she works with new participants saving for their dreams.

The Rapid Assets IDA Program will be located on the 2nd floor of the Cherry Street branch of First National Bank of Phillips County at 502 W. Cherry. All information and economic literacy sessions will be offered on the campus of Phillips County Community College. If you know anyone in the Helena area who might be interested in the IDA program, give them Mindy’s name. She can be reached at 1-870-816-1104.

Margaret Jackson—Helena

A few years back, Margaret Jackson borrowed $7,000 from Good Faith Fund’s peer lending program to build a room onto her home and start an in-home day care.

Recently she went through the Rapid Assets IDA program, and used her savings to make home improvements and finish a room for her day care business. The economic literacy classes provided by the Rapid Assets IDA Program presented her with a challenge to work on developing a better bookkeeping. “I wish I could do the IDA program over again,” says Margaret.

Seshe Brewer—Pine Bluff

In December of 1997, after being a stay at home mom for a number of years Seshe found herself in the midst of a divorce and custody battle. She was forced to give up her home, car and furniture, but was awarded full custody of her son.

She worked as a substitute teacher, but with no formal education she could not teach full time. The 38-year old Seshe heard about Good Faith Fund’s Rapid Assets IDA Program and thought it would be a good way to save for a home, and a college education for her son. While going through the IDA program she worked two full-time jobs. In the spring of 2000 she started full-time at SEARK College and reduced her work schedule. She graduated from SEARK College in the spring of 2002 with an A.A. in general studies moving into a double major of English and psychology.

Seshe has received a full scholarship at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff for the fall 2002 semester and was also nominated for the USA all-academic team and was selected for Leadership Pine Bluff in 2003. “The Rapid Assets IDA Program along with scholarships and grants has allowed me to complete my studies at SEARK College, and enabled me to pursue a bachelor’s degree at UAPB,” Seshe says.

Next IDA Information Meeting:
10 a.m. Saturday, November 9
Where?
Joyce Croseford—Pine Bluff

Joyce began the Rapid Assets IDA Program to save for her daughter’s education. She used her Rapid Assets IDA Program savings and match to pay for the 2002 spring semester.

Her daughter, Grace, says, “if it were not for this wonderfully generous program I do not believe that I could have continued my education at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. This is something I whole-heartedly know. Rapid Assets IDA Program is a major part of the foundation I am building.”

Joyce is taking advantage of the $4,000 per household match and now saving for a home.

Saver’s Club

If you missed the last Rapid Assets IDA Program Savers Club meeting you missed a real treat. Linda Tucker with Consumer Credit Counseling gave us tips on budgeting and getting through Christmas without financial meltdown (we still have some handouts—call us if you’d like some) and a friend of the IDA program offered special door prizes! Everyone went away with a lovely gift!

So now is your chance! The Rapid Assets IDA Program Savers Club will meet again at 6:00 p.m. on December 5, 2002. Our speaker is from the Internal Revenue Service and will have information on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and how to take advantage of it. And we’ll also have information on where to go to get your tax return done for free! We have some door prizes left from the last Savers Club meeting and will offer childcare and refreshments (cookies, chips, drinks). Give us a call (535-6233, ext 15 or 1-888-323-6233 ext. 15) to schedule childcare. SEE YOU ON DECEMBER 5TH!

Grace Croseford is a student at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, thanks to the IDA program.

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