



Continuous Improvements

By Wanda Locklear

A Prayer Answered

Pembroke-Michael and Jusy Oxendine Bunce , who for the last eight years, prayed daily asking God to help them acquire a new home. Most individuals would have given up, but not the Bunces. Actually, the opposite happened, each day their faith grew stronger. Finally, in March 2005, Judy received the call she had waited eight long years to receive. Lumbee Housing Manager, Tara Blue called to inform them of their approval in the Tribe's Home Ownership Program, a program designed to provide homes for low to moderate income level Lumbee families.

Next was the task of selecting house plans. Together with their 13 year- old son Douglas they studied several house plans. After changing their minds from their original choice they settled on the *Courtyard House*, one of three model houses designed by local Lumbee architects Michael Clark and his son Che' Clark, along with NC State School of Design students. The designs grew out of tribal input during local community meetings and data collected during the students several visits to the area to familiarize themselves with the people, culture, and environment.

The Courtyard House is indicative of the house styles of the working class Lumbee People of this area during the 1800's. This style house known as a Shotgun house generally was long and narrow allowing more homes and families to squeeze into a small area. The name comes from the idea that a bullet can travel unimpeded from the front door to the back door. Usually consisting of four rooms, these houses fulfilled the dreams of many looking to raise a family in an affordable dwelling. Today's version consists of more than 1600 square-feet.



Upon completion the 3 bedroom and 2 bathroom house will measure more than 1800 square-feet. "A home this size will allow Douglas the luxury of enjoying his upcoming birthday with his friends," stated Judy. "I am truly thankful to the Tribe

and staff, who are making our dream come true."

Jimmy Goins, Tribal Chairman stated, "Achieving the American Dream is one of the Tribe's major priorities and we are elated to be able to help tribal members achieve their dream."

"With so much left to be done in Lumbee Country, seeing the sheer joy on the faces of the Bunce family as they watch the construction of their new home was a reminder that even the longest journeys are accomplished one step at a time," stated Leon Jacobs, Tribal Administrator.

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Fulfilling A Vision

One lazy Sunday afternoon William Hunt (aka Lonely Wolf) and his wife Diane went for a drive. The last thing on their mind that day was a new house. They wanted and needed a house. But this particular day Lonely Wolf's mind was a thousand miles away.

As he turned onto Long Branch Drive, he saw the perfect house with yellow siding, a shaded front yard and lots of space in the back for his dogs. The house was for sale.

After taking inventory of the large lot and the shade trees, he approached the house, and as soon as he touched it, something deep inside spoke assuring him, "this would soon be your home."



Homeowners William (Lonely Wolf) and Diane Hunt, stand in front of their new home.

The Hunt's applied for assistance months earlier under the Homeownership Program offered through the Tribe. The staff guided him through the application process and deemed him eligible for services. The Tribal Homeownership Program offers financing through the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA). Through assistance from the Lumbee Tribe, the Hunt's have been able enabled to achieve the American Dream of owning a home.

Avid collectors, the Hunt's new home is filled with American Indian artwork and collectibles accumulated while following the Pow Wow Trail. A traditionalist and artist himself, Lonely Wolf, as he prefers to be called, travels the southeast telling the Lumbee story and selling his crafts.

While showing staff around her new home, Diane Hunt stated, "without the help of the Tribe we would have never owned a home, we are so thankful."

Mr. Leon Jacobs, Tribal Administrator added, "Achieving the great American Dream is one of the Tribe's major priorities for those tribal members seeking to participate."

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