



FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER

Chris and Melissa Uttke are new-comers to the big city. He's originally from Alaska; she still has her South Carolina accent. Their paths first crossed at a church they both frequented in Virginia. It was their faith and love for each other that brought them to Philadelphia, eager to get involved in a church congregation located in the City of Brotherly Love.

Upon first moving to Philly they settled into an apartment in Fishtown, getting involved in community events such as NKCDC's Frankford Avenue cleanups. "There's a sense of community here that's nice," they said to themselves. With two young sons, Carson and Corbin, they soon decided the time was right to buy a home. Looking for advice, a friend told them to call NKCDC - those same folks who organize those cleanups.

Struggling to find a lender, Chris and Melissa eventually selected one who participated in NKCDC's First-Time Homebuyer Workshop. "It was a painful process having to find new lenders with each house we looked at," says Melissa. "We eventually went with one we met through NKCDC. We ended up closing in 30 days."

Now settled into their new home on Aramingo Avenue in Port Richmond, the Uttkes express nothing but gratitude and praise regarding their experience with NKCDC. "Working with the counselors gave us a lot of confidence in the process," says Chris. "Having that outside perspective is so valuable."

As for their neighborhood, these proud parents couldn't be happier. "We've got a lot of nice parks around here," says Melissa. "We're pleasantly surprised by the number of kids in the area." When asked if they like their new home, Carson and Corbin offer big grins. "We'll take that as a yes."

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