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Resident Spotlight: Samantha Stokes

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Former Housing Choice Voucher holder Samantha Stokes grew up one of four children living under the roof of hard-working parents. Ends didn't always meet, and she remembers being evicted as a child – something she vowed never to experience as an adult.

In October 2023, with the assistance of CHA's new **Down Payment Assistance** program, Stokes was the first CHA resident to close on her new home.

Stokes praised the program, saying "I'm a little more than low-income, and there aren't a lot of resources out there for this group of people. We don't qualify for certain benefits, but we do need some assistance. That's where the DPA comes in handy. You just need that little bit of push and assistance that will help you get to where you want to be in life."

One of the joys so far has been seeing her 14-year-old daughter's face when she saw her new home for the first time.

"She was excited, running through and opening up all the doors, running in the backyard - she's never had a backyard before," Stokes said. "She's excited about having a washer and dryer in the home instead of going to the laundromat. It's a bigger space to move around in, three bedrooms instead of two. She's happy."

Read Samantha's story in the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) or [watch the video](#).