

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

FOR NEW OWNER HELPED BY BON SECOURS



Sabrina Gladden had been to other home ownership workshops, but she wasn't impressed. The workshops seemed disorganized and she was skeptical they would be able to help her. Then she heard about Bon Secours' home buying workshop and decided to give it a try as her New Year's resolution.

Sabrina is a resident of the Bon Secours Apartments, but longed to have her own home. A single mother of two, Sabrina works for the Maryland School for the Deaf in Columbia, MD. She wanted a safe, secure and affordable home near her family in Baltimore City. "They are my support network. They help out with my children so that I can work," says Gladden.

While home ownership has always been a cornerstone of the *American Dream*, saving the money for the



Christine Boone and Saunie Tubmane, home ownership workshop volunteers

first one is often a deal-breaker. Navigating the application process with lenders, insurers, credit agencies, inspectors, lawyers, bankers and realtors can be downright daunting.

An anchor institution in southwest Baltimore, Bon Secours helps break down those barriers by offering home buying workshops in conjunction Park Heights Renaissance, a non-profit redevelopment organization. Together, this partnership has helped nearly 50 health system employees and west Baltimore neighbors navigate their home-buying journeys since last August.

"There are so many resources available to people who want to purchase a home," offers Bon Secours' own Christine Boone. A licensed realtor, Ms. Boone along with seasoned housing counselor Saunie Tubmane, volunteer each month to organize the eight-hour program. Helping people like Sabrina Gladden is her mission. "I have been called to this neighborhood—to be of *good help*. To many people we serve, that starts with a safe, affordable home."

Shortly after Sabrina completed the January workshop, she began meeting with realtors, lenders and other professionals that assist with the home buying process. She found an affordable home in the Park Heights neighborhood that works well for her family. "I am so excited to have my own home!" says Gladden. She is scheduled to close on her new home in mid-March, and has already begun thinking about how she'll decorate it. ■



New homeowner **Sabrina Gladden**