

Rose and William

Rose and William are an extraordinary couple. They were married in October of 1998 and envisioned themselves celebrating their tenth anniversary in their new home. They wanted the American dream of owning a home of their own. They currently reside in a subsidized apartment in Spartanburg, SC. William and Rose are very independent for which they appreciate and are grateful. They are able to budget their own finances and are familiar with the city bus, which they travel quite frequently.



Though they are retired, Rose and William are involved in many activities. They participate in the Special Olympics every year and have won numerous awards. William is a member of a basketball team and Rose is a member of the cheerleading squad. They also exercise by walking to and from the Spartanburg County Library where they check out books regularly and take a computer class to advance their skills. In addition, they are heavily involved in church and are members of the Sunrise Civitan Club. It is evident that they are well-known and admired in the community.

In October 2007, William and Rose set forth to accomplish their dream by developing a PATH plan for themselves. Their circle of support was established to include, their pastor, a friend from the library, representatives of The Charles Lea Center and The Supported Community Living Initiative. Cathy, a member of their circle of support, comments, "Through my friendship with Rose and William, we started doing things together, including becoming members of the Sunrise Civitan Club. I was honored when they asked me to be in their circle of friends to help accomplish their goal of owning their own home."

During the initial meeting, tasks were assigned to each member of the circle of support, including William and Rose, with a timeline for completion. They were able to apply for the waiting list to receive a Housing Choice Voucher from the Spartanburg Housing Authority. Several members volunteered to take them to visit homes that offer a rent-to-own option and they continued to assist William and Rose to search for others.

William and Rose will not make a decision without consulting the other and this alone is evident of their devotion to each other. In October of 2008, Rose and William decided not to purchase their own home and chose to continue living in their apartment where they are comfortable. Rose and William held their last circle meeting to inform their circle members of their decision and were willing to share their experiences and accomplishments during this process to educate a visitor during this meeting. Although they have chosen not to continue to pursue buying a home, their circle of support will always be available to assist them in their future endeavors.