

## REINVESTMENT PARTNERS

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### FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER DEMONSTRATES SUCCESS OF HOUSING COUNSELING PROGRAMS

**Durham, North Carolina (March 28, 2016)** - Lolita Guasp of Durham purchased her very first home in Southside last month, after two and a half years of avid preparation with local nonprofit Reinvestment Partners. Lolita came to Reinvestment Partners through her employer, Duke, who partnered with the nonprofit on a home buying club. The Duke Home Buyer Club, which meets weekly, was designed to support prospective home buyers as they prepare to purchase a home. Topics covered include financial goals, credit building and debt reduction, and shopping responsibly for a home.

Reinvestment Partners offers the Duke Home Buyer Club in addition to monthly home buyer workshops, which are free and open to the public. Government and private grants to the agency's housing counseling program enable Reinvestment Partners to offer these services at no cost to clients.



**From left to right: Mayme Webb Bledsoe (Duke University), Lorisa Seibel (Reinvestment Partners Counselor), Lolita Guasp (Homeowner), Lee Playford (Real Estate Agent)**



**Lolita in front of her new home.**

One such grant came from Suntrust Mortgage at the end of last year. In mid-2015 Suntrust announced they were seeking to partner with select non-profit organizations in the southeast to educate members of underserved communities about home ownership. Being an active member of the housing counseling community since 1990, Reinvestment Partners was a great match for such a grant.

Suntrust's grant has helped to fund housing counseling services to 156 clients since January 1st, fifty-eight of whom are prospective home buyers. Learn more about Reinvestment Partners' home buyer workshops by visiting our website at [www.reinvestmentpartners.org/home-buyer-education/](http://www.reinvestmentpartners.org/home-buyer-education/). ###

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