



The Best Gift EVER!

By Anthony Linardos, State Director VT/NH

Homeowner: Corey Kelly and daughter Abigail

Location: Wheelock, VT

Closed: 12/20/19

I was introduced to Corey Kelly and her daughter Abigail through a video she sent to one of our housing program experts, Dianne Drown.

Dianne is one of our veteran specialists who's phenomenal at her job because she invests her emotions into every individual and family she works with. With her trademark gentle touch and reassuring knowledge, Dianne had helped Corey navigate the often-choppy waters of homebuying with a positive, resilient outlook that saw her through to a happy closing late last year.



Abigail spreads her wings in the new backyard

As a way of saying 'thank you,' Corey sent Dianne a piece of visual gold that made its way around our office and left only a few dry eyes in its wake.



Cooling off in the river behind her new home

Corey's daughter Abigail is an adventurous 11-year-old with an infectious laugh and a silly streak that's impossible to match. Though Corey had spent the last two years looking at homes, making offers on them and getting turned down, her frustration and disappointment could never weaken the rock-solid bond of this mother-daughter "Dream Team." With Dianne's supportive friendship and Abigail's irrepressible spirit buoying her, Corey kept her eyes forward and ears open, and late last year an opportunity presented itself by way of a co-worker.

As Corey tells it, the stars finally aligned when one of her colleagues—herself a prospective homebuyer—told her about a lovely property she liked but had deemed too small for her family. Corey viewed the house immediately, loved it, and Dianne got to work with the offer. It was accepted and the closing day was set for December 20th.

On Christmas Day, with a letter to her daughter and keys to the front door in her purse, Corey asked Abigail to come with her on yet another home showing. Understandably she was greeted with a look of confusion, a sigh and, “Really Mom? On Christmas?!”

Once they parked in the driveway, Corey took out her phone and started recording **the magical moment** of when they achieved the dream of home ownership. The New Hampshire and Vermont Rural Development team have enjoyed watching Corey’s video on multiple occasions as a reminder of the importance of the work they do, now we’re happy to share it with you in appreciation of Homeownership Month.

For Corey Kelly, being a homeowner is the achievement of a lifelong dream. For her daughter Abigail, it’s an unforgettable gift that will last a lifetime. For Rural Development, it defines our mission and inspires our passion for helping small communities thrive.



A bedroom fit for a princess!