

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation



2007 FAMILY OF DISTINCTION The DuPlayee Family

Christopher and Stephanie came to the C.E.F.S. Fayette County Outreach facility in March 2004. Both were enrolled in college and had a baby on the way, but they were living with family and in need of affordable, suitable housing for their growing family. A C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation Fayette County caseworker placed the couple in a transitional housing apartment. While they were in the apartment, Christopher and Stephanie learned how to budget and set up a savings account for when they were ready to move out. They enrolled in the Individual Development Account (IDA) program in May 2005 and completed 10 hours of financial literacy and 6 hours of home ownership counseling in preparation for buying a home. C.E.F.S. also offered energy (LIHEAP) and food assistance to this young family. Both received Community Services Block Grant Program educational scholarships to help with tuition costs.



The Christopher and Stephanie DuPlayee family are the recipients of the 2007 Family of Distinction Award.

Pictured Left to Right: Christian, Stephanie, Christopher and Faith DuPlayee

Christopher and Stephanie have since graduated from college, learned to live on a budget, lowered their debt, and reached their dream of homeownership. Christopher is a substance abuse case manager with Illinois State Corrections and Stephanie is a registered nurse at the Fayette County Health Department. They have also expanded their family, when baby Faith joined son Christian in 2006. It is through sacrifice and dedication, and by setting small, achievable goals, that the DuPlayee family has become self-sufficient and built a better life.

