

# Faces Behind the Funding

## About the Home

Leah Gagnon (26) is developmentally disabled, but she is able to live on her own. Leah's sister, Lisa Gagnon (36) has Cerebral Palsy and has lived in an assisted living facility most of her life. Leah wanted a safe place to live, where her sister could live with her. She went through homebuyer education counseling. There she learned about the HOME program administered by Clinch-Powell, a regional nonprofit organization.



Clinch-Powell purchased a home using HOME Program funds, made it handicap accessible, and rented it to the sisters for 6 months while they built up their credit history. A local couple sold the home to Clinch-Powell at a reasonable price knowing that they were developing it for Leah and Lisa. USDA Rural Development provided a loan for the sisters to purchase the home from Clinch-Powell.

"We love our new home," said Leah. "For Lisa this means she no longer has to live in an assisted living center. She has a dog for the first time in her life and she is not sick as often. For me, it offers me more independence than I have ever had."

Leah and Lisa are both on disability and have been all their lives. Neither of the women have ever had an opportunity to be in the work force. Leah spends a lot of time working on her Math and English skills.

## About the HOME Program

THDA administers the federally funded HOME Program to promote the production, preservation and rehabilitation of housing for low income households. HOME Grants are awarded annually through a competitive application process to cities, counties and non-profit organizations outside the local participating jurisdictions. Community housing development organizations (CHDOs) are eligible to apply for THDA HOME Grants, only if the proposed project is outside most HOME local participating jurisdictions.



### Recipient

Leah and Lisa Gagnon

### THDA Program

HOME Program

### Location

Hancock County



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Development Agency  
404 James Robertson Pkwy,  
Suite 1200  
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[www.thda.org](http://www.thda.org)