

## A Place to Call Her Own

**Outline of Need:** Hollie Burgert joined Southeast Nebraska Developmental Services (SENDS)/Region V, and spent a few years living in extended family homes in both Auburn and Brownville, Nebraska. Although Hollie enjoyed her time there, she did not yet realize that one day, she would have the opportunity to “own her future” by purchasing a home. Hollie finally decided that it would be nice to return to Auburn, a small, rural community with a population of approximately 3,350. This move would allow her to spend more time with family and friends, and to be closer to her two part time jobs in Auburn.

**How Rural Development Helped:** USDA Rural Development assisted Hollie through a homeownership loan of \$31,125. The loan came to fruition with the help of SENDS, who helped coordinate the process with Hollie. SENDS was diligent in helping her to make the transition into homeownership and was there assisting from loan application to loan closing. Southeast Nebraska Community Action (SENCA) provided homebuyer education, and was able to secure down payment and closing costs assistance through the Federal Home Loan Bank in the amount of \$3,000. Local Realtors, family, and staff of SENDS helped facilitate the process and helped Hollie find a house that would be perfect for her.

**The Results:** Hollie purchased a charming, two bedroom, one bathroom, 728 square foot home, in a well kept neighborhood of Auburn. Her home is close to downtown where she works, providing her easy access. Through homeownership, Hollie contributes to her community. Auburn will most likely be the place she continues to live, do business in, hold a job in, and to continue to enjoy as the place she calls her home.

*“I love having a place to call my own. I enjoy having family and friends over for dinner and have put a lot of time and thought into turning my house into a home.” –Hollie Burgert, Homeowner*

