

# Benefits of **HOME OWNERSHIP**



There are a variety of benefits of owning a home. Whether you are a first time buyer, upgrading or building a new home, you will find home ownership satisfying and rewarding.

- 1. EQUITY BUILD-UP** — The single most important benefit of home ownership. The longer you own your home, the more your equity increases. Inflation can also play a valuable part in increasing the amount of equity you have.
- 2. FREEDOM** — Unlike renting, you can paint or decorate any way you want, or even move a wall without getting permission.
- 3. ENVIRONMENT** — You choose the neighborhood that compliments your personality and offers services that you or your family requires.
- 4. KEEP UP WITH INFLATION** — Your home can appreciate to keep in pace with inflation. Historically, real estate usually appreciates faster than the rate of inflation.
- 5. INVESTMENT** — Many home improvements that you make build equity in your home. Usually you can receive not only the cost of improvements, but the appreciated value of those improvements if you decide to sell your home.
- 6. TAX BENEFITS** — All interest that is paid on your mortgage is tax-deductible. Most mortgages are amortized which means in the early years, you pay mostly tax-deductible interest. Your property taxes are also tax-deductible.
- 7. TRADE VALUE** — Most first-time home owners use the equity from their existing home to either build their dream home or to make a down payment on another existing home of their dreams.
- 8. RETIREMENT SECURITY** — Many homeowners eventually pay off their mortgage and are able to live "rent free" during their retirement, paying only property taxes and insurance.
- 9. BORROWING TOOL** — The equity that you build up in your home can be used as collateral should you need a loan for any purpose in the future. Loans can be used for college tuition, debt consolidation, vacations, remodeling or whatever your heart desires.



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