



B O R R O W E R U S E C A S E

Choosing Freedom

*How DREAM Helped a Family
Become Mortgage Free and Debt Free*

The Situation

For years, the Wilsons had done everything right.

They purchased their home when mortgage rates were low and locked in a rate below 3 percent. They had built equity, maintained excellent credit, and steadily paid down their debts.

But despite their financial discipline, they still carried several obligations, including auto loans, credit card balances, a home equity loan, and education expenses that had accumulated over time.

As retirement moved closer and the cost of everyday life continued to rise, they began asking a simple question:

“What would life look like if we could eliminate our debt and simplify our finances?”

The problem was that becoming debt free through traditional means would likely take many more years. While they were financially secure, they wanted greater peace of mind, stronger monthly cash flow, and the freedom that comes from owning their home outright.

The DREAM Opportunity

Through their credit union, the Wilsons received a DREAM offer that allowed them to pay off their mortgage with a 10 percent discount off their remaining principal balance.

Because they had other assets available, they were able to use those funds to satisfy their discounted mortgage balance and continue living in the home they loved.

The impact was immediate and meaningful. DREAM enabled them to:

- Become mortgage free years ahead of schedule
- Significantly improve monthly cash flow
- Eliminate one of their largest financial obligations without moving, refinancing, or changing their lifestyle

Most importantly, it gave them something they had been seeking for years: the peace of mind, financial flexibility, and satisfaction that comes with owning their home free and clear.

The Outcome

The DREAM program delivered four meaningful outcomes for the Wilson family and their credit union.

<p>Mortgage Free Years Earlier</p> <p>The Wilsons paid off their mortgage years ahead of schedule while continuing to enjoy the home and community they loved.</p>	<p>Improved Monthly Cash Flow</p> <p>Eliminating their mortgage payment substantially reduced their monthly obligations and increased financial flexibility.</p>
<p>Greater Peace of Mind</p> <p>With fewer financial commitments and a simpler balance sheet, they entered the next chapter of life with confidence and security.</p>	<p>A Stronger Relationship With Their Credit Union</p> <p>By helping members achieve an important life goal, the credit union strengthened trust, loyalty, and long-term member advocacy.</p>



Borrower Interview

The Wilsons shared their experience in their own words. The following reflects their perspective on the DREAM program and its impact on their lives.

What motivated you to pursue becoming debt free?

As we got closer to retirement, we started thinking less about accumulating things and more about simplifying our lives. We wanted fewer obligations, more flexibility, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing your home is truly yours.

What made that goal difficult to achieve?

Like many families, we had accumulated different financial obligations over the years. Some were related to education expenses, some to home improvements, and some were simply part of life. We were making progress, but it felt like becoming completely debt free was still far off.

What was your reaction when you learned about the DREAM program?

Honestly, we were surprised. We had never heard of anything like it before. When we learned that we could pay off our mortgage at a 10 percent discount to the remaining balance, it immediately got our attention. Once we understood the impact it could have on our finances and our retirement plans, we knew we needed to explore it further.

How did DREAM impact your life?

The biggest impact was not just financial. It was emotional. Knowing that our mortgage was paid off and we could stay in the home we love brought a tremendous sense of relief. We sleep better, worry less, and have much more flexibility in our monthly budget than we did before.

What would you tell other homeowners who may be carrying debt while sitting on a low-rate mortgage?

Most homeowners do not realize there may be options available beyond simply making payments for years to come. We certainly didn't. My advice would be to have a conversation with your lender and ask whether they offer solutions like DREAM. We discovered that becoming mortgage free and improving our financial flexibility was much more achievable than we ever imagined, and I think many homeowners would be surprised by what is possible.

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