



Gift A House
Dream Home Registry

GIFT A HOUSE HELPS YOUNG COUPLES WITH FIRST HOME

Writer / Keeley Miller

Young home buyers and couples are starting to forgo the traditional wedding registries of the past. Instead of asking for blenders, toasters and linen, engaged couples are beginning to ask for help with something much more permanent – unlocking the door to their first home.

Fishers local and realtor Yasha Holmes launched Gift a House, an online registry that helps couples get their dream home. Gift a House provides the tools for members to set up a cost-free, personalized down payment registry to share with others. Friends and family will be able to donate money towards a couple's down payment directly on a private, PayPal-protected account, helping them reach their new home.

Holmes developed the concept in the early '90s after her own experience with down payment obstacles and student loans after she was married.

"I came across an article in the monthly

Realtor magazine that announced that FHA would allow gift funds as down payments.

This was great news!

My parents decided to help us and to 'gift' us money, so that we could go ahead and purchase our first home. We had been to a couple other banks with no luck, and now we had a greater chance to go ahead and purchase our first home, which happily we did.

"If we had known before our actual wedding, we would have encouraged family and friends to be a part of our future rather than give gifts of towels, dishes and other traditional registry items," said Holmes. "Shortly after, I decided to start Dream Home Registry. After a 15-year detour as an advertising executive with Gannett, I decided to return to a real estate career with Carpenter Realtors and launch Gift A House. The Internet and social media will allow anyone who wants to purchase a home to utilize Gift A House and help pave a way to home ownership."

Not only does Gift a House provide an account at no cost, but the site also offers rebates, rewards and real estate services. Local real estate and event vendors offer extra discounts to members, from wedding dresses to photographers. Carpenter Realtors Real Estate Services also combines their own expertise and professional representation with Gift a House, providing referral and relocation assistance along with a rebate at commission for any member who uses their services.

For Holmes, her own experience in real estate and her passion for helping other couples to their dream home is a perfect match. She is able to provide clients with a cost-free, effective way to a down payment as well as her own expertise in the field.

"[My hopes for all my clients are] happiness, prosperity, good health and to remember me when they have real estate needs in the future," said Holmes.

For more information, please visit giftahouse.com. ■