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## Louisiana

### **Success Story: Young Man in Eunice, Louisiana, Achieves Dream of Living Independently**

#### **Outline of Need**

Nineteen-year-old Casey Guidry was ready to live an independent life away from his parents. However, there were several things holding him back. His income was very low, he could not qualify for a loan of a substantial amount—and he is blind. With the help of Rural Development’s Section 502 Single Family Housing Program, he was able to not only purchase a home, but include repairs and closing costs in the loan.

#### **How Rural Development Helped**

Jeanne Vidrine, Rural Development Community Development Manager for St. Landry Parish (county), Louisiana, received a call from Casey Guidry in July 2002. Casey explained he was ready to live an independent life and had found a small home in excellent condition across the street from his father’s home. Because of Casey’s disability, he felt this was an ideal situation—it would allow him to live on his own, but still have family nearby in case he needed assistance. Because of Rural Development’s Section 502 Single Family Housing Program, Casey was able to purchase a home. Casey’s loan closed in November 2002.

#### **The Results**

In Casey’s own words:

“My name is Casey Guidry. I was born blind due to a premature birth. All through my life I learned that I had to work a little harder at life in everything that I accomplished. At 19 years old, I had a desire to live on my own, yet felt this would always be only a dream. I knew that with my limited income, it would be almost impossible. Thanks to my dad, we found a one-bedroom, two-year-old home that had been built, surprisingly, right across the street from where I grew up. We applied for a housing loan, and with the help and patience and knowledge of Miss Jeanne, I applied and was approved. One can only imagine the joy I felt when I found out that I would have the opportunity to own my own home. For anyone who believes that because you are handicapped, you should not pursue your dreams, I tell you, you never know until you put your dreams to the test.”

Casey Guidry-Homeowner.

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(see page 2 for photographs and captions)



New homeowner Casey Guidry – “. . . you never know until you put your dreams to the test.”



Casey Guidry's new home in Eunice, Louisiana, means a chance at independent living.



Casey has a kitchen to call his own.