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Avtec Homes Experience becomes sweet dream for Port St. Lucie family

PORT ST. LUCIE - Laura and Gary started looking for a new home in February. They didn't have a lot of requirements; just something nice that was large enough for the two of them, their 15-year-old son and the family dog, as well as a place for their oldest son during breaks from college. Price was definitely a consideration for the first-grade teacher and her assembler husband as they set out on their new home search. Finding properties still too high for the family budget, the couple decided to investigate many of the short sales and foreclosures that populated the housing market. The next few months for the Port St. Lucie pair proved to be a rude awakening, instead of a new home dream come true.

"We started getting discouraged when we saw so many homes in terrible condition," Laura explained. "Many of them were missing appliances and some were even missing closet doors. The yards were overgrown or bare; not kept up. And garbage was left inside, too."

Taken aback by what they found, the couple decided to press on, sure that their dream home was still out there.

"Finally, we found a nice property that was only two years old and had everything we needed. The yard was even fenced. And it was within walking distance from my parents' house." We started to get excited and thought, 'This is it' -

so we put in an offer."

Gary and Laura sat back to wait for the appointed date given to them by their Realtor, confident that their search was over. The two went so far as to measure windows and consider different decorating ideas. Then the call came they hadn't expected: "The Realtor told us that something strange had happened and our home was going to a buyer in India!" Laura said.

Even though the Realtor tried to hold them in the deal with the hope that it might "come back," the two had had enough. Discouraged, they withdrew the offer and decided to take a break from looking at homes. After months of searching, they were no closer to finding what they wanted. It seemed their dream home wasn't out there after all.

Weeks later, the Realtor called again with a deal that seemed too good to be true. Trying not to get

their hopes up, Gary and Laura marveled at a beautiful foreclosure with a quaint New England front. Now a little wiser, they asked an experienced friend to check out the home for any structural or hidden issues. A disappointed Laura continues, "He found so many things wrong including termites and mold that we had to say no. We couldn't believe it was happening to us again.

That was it - we were definitely out of the market."

But Laura's parents had other ideas. After spotting an ad in the paper for Avtec Homes, they called the downcast couple. Gary and Laura were astonished at the prospect of a brand-new home - at a price they could afford.

"My parents were in the model faster than we could get there! It was beautiful. We put a deposit down and were surprised Avtec only required \$500, since our foreclosure deposit had been



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Laura and Gary call their new home a 'blessing' after months of disappointment with foreclosures.

\$1,000." Laura recalls that things started getting better right away.

"Buying a new home with Avtec was really easy. At first, we called them almost every day, afraid we would lose it after our other bad experiences. And we would drive by the home several times a week to watch the progress. The whole time, Avtec people were helpful, kind and encouraging. They wanted to make sure we loved everything they did."

The happy family is now settling into their new home and the bad memories are quickly being replaced by good ones. Laura is looking forward to the holidays and doesn't regret the couple's rocky start to home-ownership.

"The only thing I would have done differently is not waste weekend after weekend looking at foreclosure homes." Smiling, she adds, "Why work with the unknown when you can have the blessing of a new Avtec home?"

For more information on buying a new versus foreclosed home, visit the company Web site at www.AvtecHomes.com and click on Why Buy a New Avtec Home or call Karen Mauro at (772) 871-6845. Model home hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The family oriented home builder is closed on Sundays. Directions: From Gatlin Boulevard, turn South on Savona. Proceed 1.6 miles to 3524 SW Savona, the model home is on the right.