

FACES OF THE FRONT

Bonita Holbrook

**Resident, Capitol Quarter
A Home Worth Waiting For**



Bonita Holbrook and her family have waited a long time to move into their townhouse in Capitol Quarter. Holbrook had been living with her three children and her mother in the Arthur Capper Carrollsburg public housing project since the early 1990s.

As part of the redevelopment of the Capitol Riverfront, Arthur Capper Carrollsburg received a Hope VI federal grant to demolish and rebuild all 700 public housing units as a new mixed-income community. The rebuilding of the neighborhood as Capitol Quarter includes a combination of Section 8, affordable, workforce and market rate houses.

But getting to a new home meant leaving the neighborhood for awhile.

“We went to the meetings about change. We knew we would have a choice to come back if wanted to and that it wasn’t a permanent move,” she recalls, adding that she had some hesitation about leaving because she liked the neighborhood’s location and convenient access to Metro and transportation.

Holbrook and her family moved to Kenilworth Avenue, a very dangerous neighborhood where Holbrook did not feel comfortable letting her children play outside. She had to drive them out of the neighborhood to find them places to ride their bikes safely. So when the word finally came five years later that her new townhouse in Capitol Quarter was ready, she was ecstatic. They moved back to The Front in May of 2009 and haven’t looked back.

She is amazed by the transformation of The Front and says sometimes she doesn’t recognize the streets because so much is new.

“I love the neighborhood. It’s quiet and safe. I can let my babies go outside without having to watch them constantly. And the neighbors are all so nice,” she says.