

Janet R.

Client
Loop Tax Site



Janet—a Pac-man lover and mother of one—enjoys cooking more than anything else. However, a series of events in her life left her without the tools necessary to create the gourmet aromas that once filled her kitchen—and without a home of her own.

After living in her Hyde Park apartment for thirty years, Janet lost her job in 2003—forcing her to abandon her apartment and most of her belongings. Her most prized possessions were packed into a few small boxes and put in a friend’s basement for her to reclaim once she found a new apartment, but the rest was thrown away. A year later, Janet found a job and a new apartment and started to rebuild her life. With few belongings, she had to start from the ground up.

Fortunately, 2003 was also the first year that Janet stepped into the Center for Economic Progress’ Loop tax site to file her tax return.

“I heard about the Center when I was searching for a new job,” said Janet. “I went because I thought it would be better to have someone else do my taxes.”

The Center for Economic Progress has helped Janet get a tax refund each year which she uses to make advance payments of things like rent and electricity. Each year, Janet also puts some of her refund into savings.

“Every year I buy a savings bond because I don’t want to be caught without anything ever again.”

Slowly but surely, Janet is replacing her lost belongings and using her yearly tax refunds to rebuild her home—and her life. Seven years later, she continues to make her yearly visit to CEP.

“I am trying to put my life back together. I know that life isn’t about the stuff you have, but it is hard to rebuild everything when you are left with nothing. I am slowly refilling my kitchen with cookware and my apartment with furniture.