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Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center Helps South Mississippians Facing Foreclosure

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GULFPORT (WLOX) - The Hutsons have been homeowners for almost 30 years, but the couple says it nearly lost its investment after re-financing its home on an adjustable rate mortgage.

"It is the most horrifying thing to know that you're going to lose your home and have sleepless nights because of it," says Joyce Hutson.

The couple lost their jobs after Katrina, leaving them on a fixed income. Joyce Hutson says she and her husband found themselves unable to pay the 300 dollar increase on their monthly mortgage.

"You wind up falling further and further behind."

Unable to get out of their financial hole, the Hutsons turned to Beth Meyers with the Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, a non-for-profit established by the National Fair Housing Alliance.

"It's better to have someone handling the situation for you...being able to present

information to you in a way so you can understand it and make the best decisions for yourself," says Beth Meyers, Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center.

After getting help, Meyers suggests creating a leaner budget. She also suggests taking steps to show lenders you are making an effort to be a responsible borrower, even when you don't have all the finances.

"If you cannot make a whole payment, put the money in the bank as if you were making a payment."

Although small steps, the Hutsons say they were important ones as they worked toward saving their home. In the end, Meyers was able to help the Hutsons get the relief they needed.

"We made the case to the mortgage company that their fixed income was not going to be able to keep pace with the rate of the adjustable mortgage, and we were able to take them from a 10.875 adjustable rate to a 5% fixed rate mortgage."

The Hutsons say asking for help was a move that helped them save their home.

 By: [Krystal Allan](#)


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