

Katherine and Andres

Finding a Home and Community



In and around Woodstock, Vermont, affordable housing isn't just hard to find—it's slipping further out of reach for the very people who keep this place running. Carpenters, teachers, servers, and care workers are too often priced out of the communities they serve. Local Deeds was created to change that, offering down payment support and housing stability for local workers in a market increasingly dominated by out-of-state buyers.

A Community Rooted in Possibility

Andres and Katherine are two of the many people who keep this region running—both full-time employees at the Woodstock Inn, raising their daughter and contributing to the everyday life of our community. However, like many local workers, they nearly had to leave due to the high cost of housing. *Local Deeds* exists to change that. Our mission is simple: to make sure that the people who serve this place can afford to stay in it.

A Journey Built on Courage and Care

Andres and Katherine are high school sweethearts from Bucaramanga, Colombia. Long before they landed in Vermont, they had already crossed oceans and borders chasing something simple and profound: stability.

Andres had been an industrial engineer and community organizer in Colombia, helping neighbors push back against guerrilla groups and reclaim farmland. But the work became dangerous, and staying was no longer an option. He left in 2016—first to Australia, then New York City, and finally to Vermont on a J1 visa to work at the Quechee Club.

The Upper Valley felt different. Slower. Kinder. A place where people remembered your name. By the time Katherine joined him in 2019 and their daughter Ainhoa was born, Vermont felt like home.

Both parents took jobs at the Woodstock Inn, committed to building a life here. For a while, it seemed possible.

When Stability Slips Away

In 2022, they found a spacious apartment in Bridgewater—close to work, just right for their growing family. But soon after settling in, the landlord announced they were selling the property. It felt like the beginning of another upheaval. Andres and Katherine were just getting grounded—and now faced the possibility of uprooting everything again. After years of instability, it was a devastating possibility.

A Local Housing Initiative Opens the Door

That's when their realtor at Four Corners Properties told them about *Local Deeds*. With help from *Local Deeds*, Andres and Katherine achieved something they never imagined possible: they bought not just their apartment, but the entire four-unit building. Overnight, they became first-time homeowners—and landlords—with a stable, long-term plan to stay in Bridgewater. All four units are secured for local workers.

For Andres, homeownership means more than owning property. It means creating a permanent home for his daughter, building financial stability, and reclaiming the sense of belonging he once fought for back in Bucaramanga. "We thought we'd be moving again," he says. "But now, we're planning for the long term."



Since Moving In: New Roots, New Possibilities

Today, Ainhoa is thriving at Woodstock Elementary. Katherine and Andres are recognized faces in the community—welcomed at school events, local gatherings, and familiar to guests at the Inn. Their home isn't just shelter; it's a hub of connection, where the hum of a better future is taking root.

Andres, once a grassroots organizer in Colombia, now channels that same commitment to community support in Vermont. Whether welcoming tenants, helping neighbors, or simply showing up for his daughter's school, he continues to give back to the place that gave his family a chance.

Help More Families Find Their Home

Katherine and Andres' story is one of many housing success stories made possible in 2024 by Local Deeds supporting local workers and their children through this housing assistance initiative.

When you support Local Deeds, you make more stories like theirs possible.

- [Donate Here](#) to support nonprofit housing programs in the Woodstock area, VT
- **Volunteer** to expand local housing options for families
- **Share** to spread the word about the urgent need for affordable housing in the Woodstock area.

Together, we're not just creating homes—we're building a stronger, more inclusive Vermont where families can stay, work, and thrive.

Local Deeds is an innovative program to protect housing for families and individuals who live and work, or will work, here year-round serving the local community.