The Goal of Homeownership

Homeownership is a goal for many, whether they are aspiring first-time homebuyers, in the market for a second home or have their sights on an investment property. Whichever your goal, here is some information to help you along the way.

First-Time Homeownership

81% of homeowners and **67%** of renters polled feel that homeownership is the best investment they can make. In addition to having a place of your own, homeownership allows you to build equity.

Source: Wall Street Journal, June 7, 2011

Investment Property

Many people purchase investment properties with the intention of augmenting their incomes with the proceeds from rent. These properties may round out a growing investment portfolio or provide a second income to owners.

10% of investment buyers plan to use the property as a primary residence one day and plan to keep the property for 10 years.

Vacation Home

If you've always dreamed of having a vacation home, you may be in luck. Home prices in many vacation hot spots have fallen. While buying property is a good long-term investment, the potential return isn't the primary reason for buying a second home. Nearly **80%** of second-home buyers purchased their home to live in and enjoy, not in hopes of making a substantial profit from investment.

Source: Wall Street Journal, July 23, 2011

34% of vacation home buvers plan to use the property as a primary residence in the future and the average buyer will hold onto the property for 13 years.

Source: RISMedia, April 1, 2011

How much of a mortgage can you afford? Try one of these home mortgage calculators:

Smart Money

http://www.smartmoney.com/calculator/real-estate/howmuch-house-can-i-afford-1304479817347/

Kiplinger

http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/housing.html

MSN Money

http://money.msn.com/home-loans/home-buying-

Source: RISMedia, April 1, 2011