

# 2021 Homeowner Stories

## Jamie's Story

I am the mom of three really amazing children. Finding a full-time job has been difficult – the years I spent at home with my children had put a gap in my resume. Though I had skills from volunteer work, running my own home-based business and retail management; it was hard to find an employer who could see how those skills would translate into the business world. Last August, I was lucky to find an employer who finally did! It was such an accomplishment. I felt like I was finally on the forward path to establishing my new life, on my own, my children and me. It was a huge boost to my confidence, and it made me so very proud to show my children how perseverance can pay off if you just keep fighting for what you want. This was only the first step I felt to what is my journey to establishing “ME”.

I do not know how long we have in our home. I began to look at rentals or possibly purchasing a home of my own and wasn't sure I could even afford this. Then I remembered Habitat for Humanity and I decided to look up the programs that were available and see if there would even be anything to help me – and there was a meeting scheduled for the next week. I signed up immediately! I was not sure what would be involved or how it all worked, but I knew I had to at least look into it.

Getting a home of my own would mean so much to me. It would mean I survived – not just survived, I overcame! It would be my testament to establishing myself, to starting over, to providing for my family on my own. It would be mine. It would be a safe and stable place for my kids – it would be ours. It's hard to put into words really what it means. After years of not really knowing who I was and trying to figure out this new role of single parent it would be my reminder that anything is possible, to never give up and to always have and keep faith because when you do the reward is greater than anything we could ever imagine





## Ruby's Story

My daughter, Amanda, and I moved to Elkton in 2005 from New York City. We like it here very much. Amanda attends a local college and works part-time. She is attending classes to become a nurse and works in the healthcare field in Elkton.

When we first started thinking about home buying, I have to admit Habitat for Humanity did not come to mind. I thought to myself, Habitat for Humanity only gives homes to poor people, not someone like me. Once I attended the Homeownership Orientation, I learned the truth about the organization. I learned that Habitat for Humanity gives the hope of homeownership to families just like mine! They do this through providing services like credit and debt counseling, homeownership education, and good old fashion hard work or as they call it "Sweat Equity".

They assist in providing affordable housing opportunities and a safe and stable home for people who are unable to obtain conventional financing for a home. Not to mention, I appreciate an organization that thinks investing in others is important. As a prospective homeowner, it feels good to know that I am considered a partner with Habitat for Humanity and my mortgage will be used to build new homes for other families in need.

Habitat for Humanity teaches the importance of helping others by paying it forward, through God's love. These are just a few reasons I chose Habitat for Humanity. I really appreciate Habitat for Humanity for even considering me for this opportunity. As my daughter would say, "my mom is one person that does not take an opportunity of a lifetime for granted".

Peace and blessings



Before demolition.



Newly constructed.

## Alemseged & Almaz's Story



We are a family of five - me, my wife, my two daughters and my son. We are originally from Eritrea, Africa, and permanent residents of the United States since 2016. We left our country because of political, social, and economic crisis which are still going on to this day. We have lived in an Ethiopian refugee camp - 8-years for myself and 6-years for my wife and children as I left the country before them. After many

years in the camp facing difficulties, the United States accepted our case and gave us a golden opportunity to come to this country.

Starting from the first day we entered the United States, we have been living a normal life - having all the basic necessities like education, insurance, etc. for our children. However, we are still having some problems. We are currently living in a two-bedroom apartment where all our children are staying in one room which is not recommended especially as our children are becoming older. In our neighborhood people are addicted and bad examples for our children. We have been searching for any possible remedies but are very limited financially until we heard of Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna.

We chose Habitat because of its best performance, trust worthy and very affordable to low-income families like ours. My wife and I want to have stability, strength, and good characters for our children We believe that Habitat Susquehanna is the very best solution and we're very eager to be in our own home and tell others how happy we are in our home by Habitat.

