

# 2018 Homeowner Stories

## Mary's Story



From the time I was a little girl I always envisioned my life to go a certain way, but I have learned that life doesn't always go the way we plan. I have always been an ambitious, goal-oriented, hardworking individual. I excelled academically and was always active in sports. While in high school I was involved in 2 accidents that caused me to no longer be able to play sports. After high school I decided to postpone attending college due to some minor surgeries and wanting some time-off to recover. However, during this break is when I became pregnant with my son. After my son was born I worked as a waitress while attending school to become a certified pharmacy technician. A few years later I had my daughter. During my pregnancy I lost my job and my car

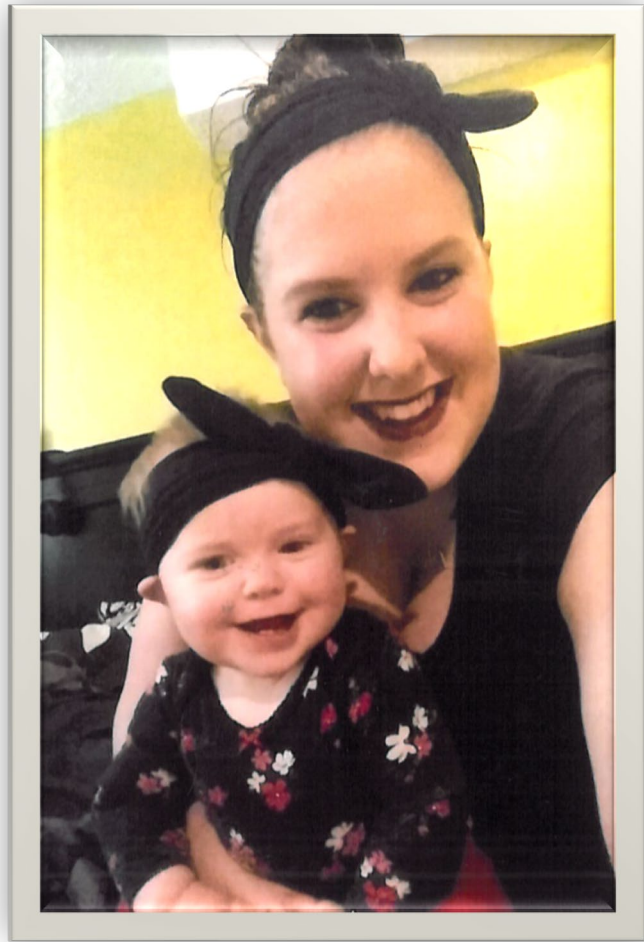
due to unforeseen circumstances. This was one of the most difficult times of my life. I struggled trying to put food on the table, hoping I had enough diapers, and not knowing if I could find a ride to get the bare necessities for my children. There were times when my phone was disconnected and I just prayed for someone to stop by and check on us. My mom and friends were there for me, but sometimes my pride would get the best of me and I was embarrassed to ask for help. As I look back now, I know that God always made a way even though I didn't trust in Him all the time. Those times are what made me stronger and are what helped mold me into the woman that I am today.

I started working 2 jobs, but I knew that it could only be temporary. I went back to school and started taking online classes. I completed my schoolwork while my children were either sleeping or had their cheerleading, football, baseball, dance, and/or soccer practices. I obtained my Associate's Degree and a week later, I was promoted to my current position. My children continue to play sports and always make Honor Roll. They actually both regularly get straight A's. We have been actively involved in our church ever since becoming members 3 years ago. God has opened up our eyes, answered prayers, and created opportunities that we would have never imagined. I am thankful that through all of the struggles we faced, there were still so many blessings. Thankfully, my children have always been able to experience things that they've wanted regardless of our struggles. Now we will finally be able to live in a house that we can call "Our Home". It seems so surreal, but we thank God and we thank Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna. This house shows that hard work pays off and that anything can happen if you set your mind to it and truly believe. We are looking forward to setting and achieving our next goals.

## **Amanda & Olivia**

After having my daughter, we were left with nowhere to live but back home to my parents where there is no space. My daughter is 19-months old and is a very happy go lucky baby. Right now we share a small bedroom. I dream about fixing up her own room with her own space.

I'm a hard working single mother who just wants the best for me and my daughter. I chose Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna because it is an amazing program. I feel that it is an amazing opportunity to get the chance to experience this and feel as though I'm not stuck and hopeless. The fact that there are people out there willing to help people who are struggling is a great thing.



## Liz's Story

I have a six-year-old daughter named Lily. Her father and I separated in November 2014 and divorced June 2016. Luckily he is a good father and helps us financially. Unfortunately, even with his help, I find it hard to find any place.

After Lily's dad moved out, I was unable to afford our home. We had a roommate for several months, but she ended up leaving and I was unable to find a replacement.

We ended up short-selling the home and when that finally went through



in September 2016, Lily and I moved in with my sister and brother-in-law.

Although I feel this is a safe environment for Lily, I can't help but want a place of my own. They were

very kind to open their home to us, but it is understood that this is temporary. They haven't given us a deadline, but I know they don't want us here forever.

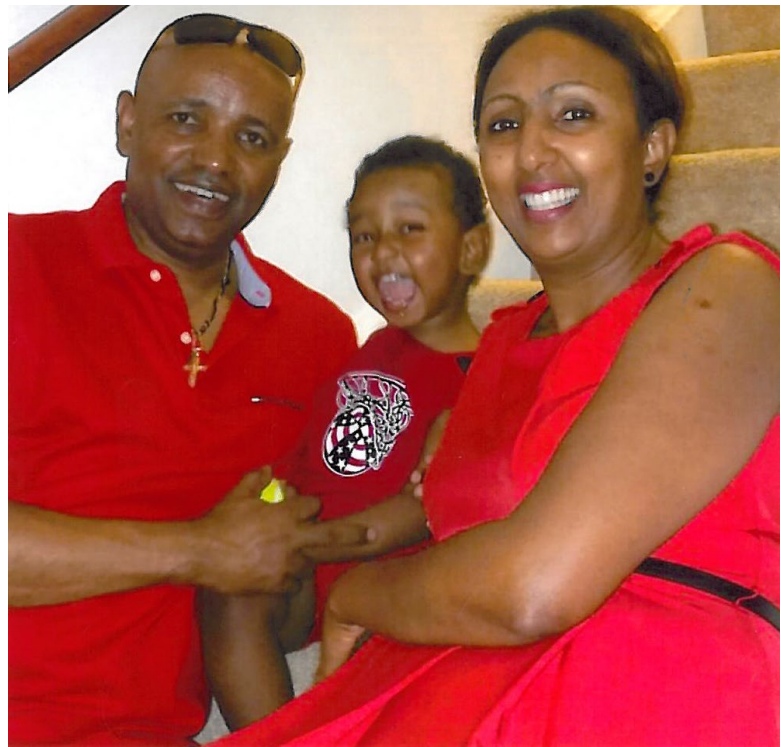
My manager, Marilyn Rawis, suggested I try Habitat. I was and still am to go through the process because I know Lily and I are not in as much need as many others around us. But at the same time, I want to provide her with a safe and happy home of her own.

## Mulugeta's Story

I was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I came to the USA in May of 2004 seeking better work opportunities. I have been working at Rite Aid since April 2005. This job has made me independent and has enabled me to lead a decent life. In January 2012, I married my wife, Sara, in Ethiopia. She was able to join me in the USA in June 2013. Sara has been working since October 2013.

I have lived in the same apartment in Aberdeen since 2008 and although I have enjoyed living here, it is proving to be too small for my growing family. My wife and I were able to start our family and had our son, Biniam, in October 2014.

I have been wanting to own a house for a while now; however due to financial situations, this dream has not materialized. I am hoping that through Habitat for Humanity, an organization that supports families with low income, I will be able to get the support that I need to finally make my dream a reality. My hope is, through this program, to purchase a house which my growing family and I can call a home.



Thank you very much for the opportunity to be part of your program.





## **Lemma and Mulatwa's Story**

We are originally from Ethiopia, in the east of Africa. I migrated to Yemen during the government change while my wife, Mulatwa, moved to Yemen in 1992. We married in 1999 and our only child, Kalkidan, was born in 2000. Kalkidan has been disabled since she was 1-year old.

We moved to the USA, in 2005 and became permanent residents. Finding the right apartment has always been a problem for us. We are tired of moving from apartment to apartment, caring for our disabled child. On top of that we need a house that is really suitable for a disabled person. We want a house that can accommodate our situation. We applied because we need to settle in one house for the rest of our life.

We thank Habitat for giving us this opportunity. We pray that God to blesses the organization and make us the hand to reach more people like us. After migrating to two countries, two states in the USA and two apartments in Maryland, we will finally settle in ONE house. It is our hope that this will help bring peace to our mind, rest to our body and benefit to our finances.