



 **Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>  
of Evansville

**every homeowner  
has a story**

## **Future Habitat Homeowners Aletta and Darius T.**

Aletta and Darius T. have been together for almost 14 years and have raised two beautiful children, D'Mairjé (7) and Avion (2). Darius and D'Mairjé enjoy playing basketball together while Avion likes toys, specifically ones from the *Trolls* movie. Both Darius and Aletta work at Berry Global while Aletta is in school at Ivy Tech for nursing.

Darius and Aletta's family currently live in a house that was converted so the upstairs is an apartment. While Aletta's aunt fixed up the house and used to live on the main floor, Aletta's mom has since moved in. **"Our family shares two bedrooms on the second floor...and Avion is currently staying in our room,"** Aletta says. The house is without central air or windows that can open easily, so staying cool in the summertime is a challenge. Then, in the winter, the furnace gets very hot and becomes a concern with the young kids. **"Every winter we have a little guest in the attic...a squirrel climbs in and makes a lot of noise. It's concerning because of the possibility of wiring getting cut."**

Looking to find a different living situation, Aletta and Darius turned to some friends who had gone through the Habitat program. The couple decided to pursue the possibility of working towards their own affordable home. **"[It was hard] digging into my debt and seeing where we stand...I had started school the same month we got accepted, so we had to figure out how we were going to balance work, school, and sweat equity hours,"** Aletta admits. **"I was at school when we got the call. I was very excited and called Darius at work to tell him the good news."**

Since their involvement with Habitat programs, Aletta and Darius are learning many new things. **"The Money Management class really opened up our eyes to what we were spending our money on,"** Aletta says. **"It's been fun...working with the Core Crew out on the sites and meeting new people."** Darius adds, **"We're learning how to build a house!"**

Having their own, affordable home will open doors for the family. **"The kids will have their own rooms and they can paint their walls,"** they pause and laugh. **"Avion might draw on the wall, but it will be his room...maybe we'll get a whiteboard or chalkboard for his room."** In the future, the family is excited for all the fun adventures having their own home will bring. **"[We'll be] saving up for a fence around the yard so the kids have a safe place to run around and play. We'd like to get a trampoline for the kids. We'd like to pitch a tent in the backyard for some fun home-camping memories with the kids...We're looking forward to having more space – especially room in the closets. Having a washer and dryer on one level is going to be amazing...overall, we're looking forward to making memories in our own house."**