



every homeowner has a story

Habitat Future Homeowner Candy L.

Candy L. has moved many times throughout the course of her life in search of affordable rent, good living conditions and a place to call home. Like everyone, Candy desires a strong, stable home that she can afford.

At present, Candy's living situation is less than ideal and a rather complicated matter because in September she moved into a basement apartment that she could afford; however, quickly after Candy arrived at her new apartment – even before she unpacked – the landlord passed away unexpectedly. The family of the landlord took possession of the property, and they are allowing Candy to stay temporarily in the upstairs apartment until she finds an alternative place to live. After moving her boxes upstairs, Candy decided not to unpack since she would need to move again shortly. Living out of boxes in an apartment that is not well insulated and has some rodents, Candy quickly began going through her options for alternative housing.

Candy has been thinking about applying to Habitat for Humanity of Evansville for several years, but she never acted upon the thought. With the encouragement from a friend, Retha, and the strong desire to find a permanent solution Candy came into the Habitat office to apply for the homeownership program. To her relief and excitement, Candy was accepted.

Since beginning her journey to homeownership with Habitat, Candy has been busy – from working at Industrial Filters Manufacturers in the shipping department (where she has worked for the last 10 years) to working on her sweat equity hours for Habitat. She says, ***"I'm busy, but it works out. You have to make it work."*** Candy is thankful that her place of employment is working with her to ensure she has enough time to fulfill her sweat equity hours. The journey with Habitat has meant a lot to Candy; she says, ***"I care more. I'm looking forward and saving [money] and meeting new people."***

Now, after months of living in a space that is not a home to her, Candy is beyond ready to unpack and make this Habitat house a home. With a smile spreading across her face she says, ***"I'm going to hang pictures. I haven't hung them in years. It's going to be my home. I don't have to go anywhere and pack."*** With growing enthusiasm, she expresses her happiness that she will now have the space for her grandkids and sister to stay with her when they are in town which will allow them to visit more often. From day to day cooking and grilling out to visiting with loved ones, this home is sure to be a place of lifetime memories for Candy.