



 **Habitat for Humanity**[®]
of Evansville

**every homeowner
has a story**

Future Habitat Homeowner Cynthia G.

Cynthia G. was born in Evansville and spent her teen years here with her family, but moved south when she married. She has a daughter, Holly, 3 grown step-children and two cats, Pickles and Little-Bit. Cynthia is now retired, but she has stayed busy. She says, **“I’ve done a lot of reading. Reading that I didn’t do while working.”** Several years ago, Cynthia learned that her mother had cancer; she moved back to Evansville to support her mother during treatment and decided to stay after her mother passed.

In autumn of 2016, Cynthia had a serious fall which took her a full year to recover. During this time, Cynthia needed home healthcare. Holly, who lived in Georgia at the time, came to the rescue. However, Cynthia was living in a 1-bedroom, no-pet retirement facility, so in order for Holly and the two dogs to reside with Cynthia they needed to find an alternative living arrangement. Holly quickly found a home where there was a bedroom and bathroom on the main level for Cynthia. However, the residence has since posed many obstacles. Cynthia says, **“The residence was under construction when Holly found it, but after we put the down payment on the house the landlord stopped renovation and there has been a lack of upkeep ever since.”** Cynthia goes on to say, **“I’ve always been fortunate to live in safe neighborhoods ... nothing fancy, but nice and well maintained, but our current neighborhood feels unnerving and unkempt. Also, with only 3 window screens on the 2-story home, the house has a lack of security, and about a month ago someone tried to break in. In addition, I can’t safely get into the bathroom by myself. It is an old home, and it is not set up for wheelchairs.”**

With the need for a change apparent, the family began searching for alternative housing in Evansville. However, even with Cynthia’s social security and Holly’s income as a bus driver for children with special needs, their current home’s high rent and utilities were preventing the family from saving enough for a large down payment on a decent home. Cynthia says, **“Rent in Evansville is increasing, but my income is a fixed rate. We didn’t have a way to get out of our current situation; then, I learned about Habitat through my younger brother Tim, who is a Habitat homeowner. He told me about the opportunity, and I was pleasantly surprised that my perceptions of Habitat were wrong. It was a Godsend!”**

“My daughter gave up her life in Georgia to care for me, and I want her to have security for the future. I want to do the best I can for her before I go, and I feel that this [building and buying my own Habitat home] is something I can accomplish. There is a big difference from living in an apartment and renting to living in your own home, and the idea of having our own home sounds like heaven. Habitat has pulled me out of a depression and given me an attainable goal to strive for.” Cynthia smiles and adds, **“This home means permanence, comfort, and security ... which is terribly important to me. It will be our space. Holly is just as excited as I am about this house. She is working six days a week 10-12 hours per day to save up for the home, and we are already looking forward to picking out furniture.”** Cynthia goes on to explain how the accessibility of the home’s entrance and bathroom will mean independence to both herself and Holly as she will be able to use the shower on her own as well as enter and exit the home through the front door. Since being accepted into Habitat’s homeownership program, Cynthia says, **“I’ve become a spokesperson for Habitat. I feel that if more people knew about what it took to become a Habitat homeowner ... more people would make donations and apply for a home.”**