



every homeowner has a story

Habitat Future Homeowner Erin D.

Erin D. is an independent individual. She has lived on her own since the age of 18 and actively works to support herself. Erin works at Zeidler's Floral in the wholesale department and has worked there for 5 years; she oversees the office and buys supplies.

Through the years, Erin's mom has been a source of support for Erin. About four years ago, Erin's mom temporarily moved in with her. However, not long after, Erin's mom passed away. From that time on, Erin's two biggest rocks were her Papaw Mike and her Aunt Vikki (Victoria Bender). During this difficult time, Erin and her two sisters grew closer and helped lift each other up. **"We can fall back on each other,"** Erin says. So, while supporting herself and living on her own, Erin feels she has been blessed with people in her life that care about her wellbeing.

Currently, Erin lives in a little apartment on the north side of Evansville with her pet piglet, Nolan. She chose the apartment because it was affordable, but she would like to live in a nicer home in a better neighborhood if provided the opportunity.

Erin learned about Habitat for Humanity from her older sister, Crissi, who is a Habitat homeowner. Wanting the best for her little sister, Crissi encouraged Erin to apply for the homeownership program. At first, Erin was denied because of outstanding payments to Ivy Tech Community College; but, motivated to attain a better future for herself, Erin quickly paid off the debt and was accepted into Habitat's program after only 3 months.

Now that she is actively participating in the Habitat homeownership program, Erin says, **"I make sure that I manage my time a little better. I make time for school, work and volunteering."** To Erin, owning a Habitat home will mean **"having something I can do with as I please. I've lived in an apartment forever; and now, I will be able to paint the walls and plant outside."** She says, **"[This home] is more concrete. It's not going to change. It's nice to have something that will be permanent."**

With a home of her own becoming a reality, Erin is setting her sights to the future. She is excited that she will have a cheaper mortgage for an entire home than the rent she paid for a 1-bedroom apartment. The affordable mortgage will give her room to grow and save. She says, **"It will be so nice to break away from the stress of living paycheck to paycheck...to be stable and not worry so much...and, to have a place I can eventually have a family someday."**