



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

**every homeowner
has a story**

Future Habitat Homeowners Harindra and Eresha

Harindra A. and Eresha P. are eager to have a home that allows for more family time. The couple has two children, twin girls named Thenuli and Ranuli (2 ½), who love playing, taking family walks, and being outside. **“They are always saying ‘Outside! Outside! Outside!’”** explains Eresha. **“That’s why we need a backyard!”** Harindra works as a meter reader at Olameter (a Vectren contract company), and Eresha is a deli clerk at Schnucks, where she says enjoys the flexible hours. Eresha is also attending IvyTech and working toward a degree in accounting. Additionally, in August of 2017, Harindra and Eresha took the *Oath of Allegiance* to become citizens of the United States!

Harindra and Eresha have lived in Evansville for a year now; previously, they lived in California for about seven years, and before that, Sri Lanka. Living in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas proved to be exceptionally expensive. After visiting friends in Evansville, the couple did some research and learned living in Indiana would be approximately 84% cheaper.

Even after the move and with the reduced cost of living in Evansville, Harindra and Eresha have found that it can be difficult to balance the full-time jobs needed to rent their apartment and still spend the time they want with family. The costs of moving across the country and starting a family have also added up. Eresha learned about Habitat for Humanity through a coworker at Schnucks who suggested she apply. From there, she and Harindra met with Donna, Habitat’s Family Services Director, at the Evansville Christian Life Center to learn more information about the organization before beginning the application process. **“When we got the call saying we were accepted we were so excited!”** Harindra says.

Since the start of their sweat equity process with Habitat, Eresha and Harindra have been working hard to balance all aspects of their schedules, and they are grateful for the help they’ve received from other members of the community. **“Future Habitat homeowners Jennifer and Tim, as well as Anna and Jackie, have donated hours to help us. Millennial Build volunteers have donated hours, too,”** explains Harindra. **“There is also a teacher at ARC daycare who is a Habitat homeowner, and she’s really helping us out by watching the girls while we go to the build sites to complete our sweat equity hours.”**

The Habitat home Eresha and Harindra are currently dedicating themselves to working on will fulfill their dream of being homeowners. **“After I had the girls, my dream was to own a home,”** Eresha states. **“Now, it’s happening!”** The low cost of their new mortgage will allow them to save money for things like visits back to Sri Lanka, where they can introduce the girls to members of the family they have yet to meet.

Perhaps most importantly, their Habitat home will allow the family to have a place that truly fits their needs, with a backyard for the energetic girls, and a space where they can comfortably spend all the quality time together they want. **“We want to be there to see the little things while the kids are growing up,”** Harindra explains. **“The affordable price of this mortgage will allow us to have more flexibility in our lives.”**