

Julie E.



Julie and grandchild

Future Homeowner Bio

For the last 10 years Julie has rented an apartment in the Evansville area. She was initially drawn to the apartment for its desirably low rent, but the rent has now risen several times causing accumulative financial stress to Julie and her family. In addition, there has been a lack of necessary building maintenance as the only significant update to her apartment has been the sub-par installation of linoleum flooring. Due to dealing with these housing problems for so long Julie expresses, **“I feel as if I’ve become immune [to my living situation].”**

On top of the issues surrounding her current living situation, Julie has been in a financial battle since the loss of her job in February of 2015. Although Julie has since found employment as a full-time sewing machine operator at eLuxurySupply, the position pays less than her previous full-time job which has caused her to readjust some aspects of her lifestyle. While managing, Julie is always looking for a better way to support herself and her children. A large part of her life revolves around her 4 children — Logan (30), Kelsey (27), Janel (19) and Charlie (15) — of which the youngest two still reside at home. With a lack of space, a need for dependable rent and a desire for a better living situation Julie started looking into other options.

A wonderful friend of Julie’s and Habitat homeowner, Stephanie M., encouraged Julie to apply for homeownership through Habitat for Humanity of Evansville. So, Julie contacted the Habitat office and filled out the paperwork to apply for the program. Stephanie even checked up on Julie to see about her progress. When Julie received her acceptance call from Habitat she was in a meeting, but she was so excited that she told her supervisor, **“I need to take this call!”** Upon her return and a brief explanation, the supervisor completely understood and congratulated Julie on her accomplishment.

After becoming involved with Habitat Julie says, **“I’m a lot busier, and I only have Saturday to get [sweat equity] hours in.”** However, Julie knows how to balance her time as she actively schedules around having a full-time job, 2 part-time jobs (at Woodlands Nursing Home and Kokies Catering), her sweat equity hours with Habitat and being a mother. Although it is a lot to balance, Julie believes the work will pay off because owning her own Habitat house will ease some of her worries and make life easier for her family.

To Julie, owning her own home will mean developing more self-reliance. She states, **“I am totally responsible [for the house]. It will be nice and scary all at the same time, but on the other hand, refreshing because it’s mine.”** Julie’s dream for the future is currently still centered around attaining her house, but she is hoping to pay off her mortgage quickly and work on saving up money for years to come.