



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

**every homeowner
has a story**

Future Habitat Homeowners Lori and James F.

Lori and James F. have two grown children Anastacia (24) and Dominique (21). They also are the proud grandparents of Era, nicknamed EJ (2), and they are expecting their second grandchild in January of 2018. Lori and James' "now" child's name is Rosco – a six-year old Chihuahua, who they found as a stray 5 years ago. Lori works for a home health agency, and James is disabled due to a triple bypass surgery, neuropathy in his feet and his shoulders causing pain and additional problems. Due to the disability, mobility has been a challenge for James. He can walk about 50 feet before needing a break.

The house Lori and James rent has a high monthly rent of \$750. In addition, the house is not very energy efficient because it was built in 1904, so the couple pays nearly \$500 a month for electric. There are steps leading up to the house with no ramp, so it is a challenge for James to enter and exit his own home. Speaking about the house, Lori says, **"We took what we could get ... it's doable, but technically we are living/sleeping in the living room right now because the bedroom is on the second level."**

James' niece was looking into applying for homeownership with Habitat, which sparked the idea for the much needed change. **"We decided to look into the program too, and when we found out we were accepted we were relieved and excited!"** James states, **"We'd like an open floor plan to allow for ease of mobility, but the most important part of the new home is the bathroom because I would like to have an accessible shower. I'm also looking forward to wide doorways and a real bedroom."**

Since beginning their sweat equity hours, the couple has been busy "always up and doing something." James says, **"I like building the walls because I can lean on the wall and I don't have to move around as much to help nail."** Additionally, Lori comments that, **"The classes we've taken are very educational. I enjoyed the stress management course, and both of us liked the garden to table class."** They also share that they are glad to have met so many nice people along the way. Specifically, **"We want to thank our advocate Anthony Miles, who has been very nice and extremely helpful."**

Lori says, **"Owning a Habitat home will mean security. I've never had a new home, so it'll be nice to have our own. There will be no more moving, and we won't have to worry as much knowing that it is ours. It will be something we are proud of."** James adds, **"This home will be a permanent spot that is our own. And if something happens to us, we would be leaving something of value to our family."**

With the stability of affordable homeownership and the increased accessibility of their new, single-story Habitat home becoming a reality, Lori and James express their excitement ... **"We are most excited to have a ramp for James to get his chair in and out of the home and to have a functional kitchen with new appliances."** Lori and James are also looking forward to their new yard where they plan to build a raised garden. Speaking of the back yard they smile and add, **"We're also looking forward to having a safe place for Rosco, Era and our future grandchild to play."**