

Marybelle B.



Future Homeowner Bio

Since 2003, Marybelle and her two sons, Keenan and Devonte, have lived on the east side of Evansville in a 3-bedroom apartment. Marybelle struggled to raise her boys while balancing being a full-time employee with the City of Evansville and a part-time student at Ivy Tech Community College. Through these trying times Marybelle was grateful that she had a mother to support her, her dreams and her children.

In 2009 when Marybelle's mother passed away, she took in her niece, Elani (12), and nephew, Lazarion (14). Two years later, through the pain, struggle and heartache Marybelle received her associates degree in Business Administration. At present, her son Keenan (25) and his twin children Courtnee and Kameron (6) also live with Marybelle, Elani and Lazarion. The 6 family members live in a 3-bedroom apartment and are in need of more space.

In addition to the need for space, Marybelle is very aware of the increase in criminal activity in their area. Wanting the best for the family, she strongly desires to move to a safer neighborhood especially since her niece and nephew are at a delicate age where their minds are more impressionable.

Being accepted into the Habitat for Humanity homeowner program has been Marybelle's goal for years, but acceptance was out of reach due to a struggle between balancing finances, working around her physical disabilities and managing her credit. Now, with a better job to help steady her finances and a strong desire to get the kids in her care into a better neighborhood, Marybelle is excited to be not only accepted into the Habitat program but making tangible progress towards a better future for herself and her family. Marybelle expressed, **"Through prayer and faith, I have made it thus far."**

At present, along with her sweat equity hours, Marybelle works as a 2nd shift supervisor for the City of Evansville and oversees 108 individuals. She ensures that she makes time to check up on the kids by getting up to see them off to school and by coming home to check that they are doing their homework and staying off the streets. Marybelle is also grateful that her son, Keenan, is able to help out when she is at work or catching up on sleep.

Additionally, in February of 2016, Marybelle became the Vice-President of the Evansville Chapter of MASK—Mothers Against Senseless Killings. Marybelle feels that getting involved in Habitat through the sweat equity program has helped her feel comfortable to become more involved in the community. **"Seeing everyone working together on the construction site was inspiring,"** voices Marybelle.

Thanks to Habitat, Marybelle feels that she will be able to provide a home where the kids she cares so deeply about will be able to grow up safely, get a good education and eventually provide for themselves. Marybelle states, **"Owning a Habitat house will mean everything. It [The house] will be mine and my family's; it is something that God has blessed me to have."**