



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

**every homeowner
has a story**

Habitat Future Homeowner Mateo H.

Mateo H. is a man full of life. He holds the mentality that, **“It is never too late to better your life.”** Living with a disability, Mateo knows that life can be difficult, but by working hard you can achieve a better future.

Currently, Mateo actively participates in the YMCA boxing program and lives with his mother Tammy, his sister Ashanti, and his 8-year old son Kyler. The family of four work together to maintain their home; however, the apartment they live in does not have much space, holds dust and mold, houses several mice and has stairs which cause mobility problems for Mateo. In addition, the family does not receive very much maintenance assistance from the facility’s staff. Mateo says, **“My mom and sister help me pay rent for the apartment; but, if something were to happen to them I would have difficulty paying that much for rent.”**

Mateo learned about Habitat for Humanity of Evansville through his best friend and current Habitat homeowner Doris and his bus driver Jason. They told Mateo about the affordable and accessible housing options available through Habitat’s homeownership program. With a desire for a more stable future and healthier, single-floor place to live, Mateo decided to apply. Mateo says, **“The experience of applying for a Habitat house was great, but I was a little bit nervous because I wanted to make sure everything went through well. And, I worried some because of my anxiety disorder.”**

Once Mateo was accepted into the program, he began working on his 300 hours of sweat equity on the build sites and in the office. With a home of his own to look forward to, the hours of volunteering and taking homeowner classes are flying by! Mateo smiles and says, **“I’m looking forward to the house, being the landscaper, getting a grill and doing more things outside like sitting on the porch...and maybe getting a furry friend.”** He went on to say, **“Now, with Habitat’s affordable mortgage program, there is less worry and we can save more. We will have more stability moving forward.”**

“Owning a Habitat home will mean a future that’s mine. It will be my house. If you want something you have to work hard to get it. It’s never too late to better your life.”