

Rhea Simmons



Future Homeowner Bio

For Rhea Simmons, homeownership seemed out of reach. Now, through her partnership with Habitat Rhea Simmons has become less overwhelmed by the thought of homeownership. Before Habitat, Rhea's life was consumed by routine, working and taking care of her daughters with not much to look forward to. She and her two daughters, Breanna and LeKenna who are 12 and 7 years old, have been living in their two bedroom apartment for nine years. Nevertheless, homeownership was still on Rhea's mind.

At first Rhea looked into rent-to-own houses, but the interest rates and condition of the houses concerned her. Rhea first learned about Habitat's opportunities through a family member, a current Habitat homeowner. Amazed by the quality of Habitat houses, Rhea applied for her own home. After being denied twice she did not give up and was finally approved. **"This is my way to own a home that I can afford and won't put me in such debt."**

Rhea says she has learned how to manage her time more from working on her sweat equity. Perhaps even more impactful than any other skill, Rhea's partnership with Habitat has helped her see into the future and strive for more, pushing her out of that day-to-day mindset. Rhea works at Diamond Valley Federal Credit Union. Her future goals include helping her daughters pay for college, getting a minivan to transport her active daughters and friends, and taking a family trip to Disney World in the summer of 2018.

Now, Rhea and her girls are looking forward to starting their life in their new home. In their excitement, each has picked out her own colors and furniture. While the girls are excited to have their own rooms, Rhea is excited to own a home and be debt free. **"It's not just somewhere where I can go. It will be somewhere I can be comfortable and know that it is mine."**