



## every homeowner has a story

## **Habitat Future Homeowner Robert C.**

Robert C. and his brother were raised by a single mother on the east side of Evansville, and they went to the Church of Christ as a family. Their mother taught them the importance of having a strong family support system and a heart of faith. However, life was challenging living with the peer pressure from the streets, and Robert struggled with finding a positive direction for his life. He says, "It was after my grandfather passed that I really tried to turn my life around, and I started to work more. If it wasn't for my family during that time I don't know where I would be – it was because the love that they gave that I'm where I am today."

Now, Robert strives to instill the importance of family support in his own children. His son Raquavion (15) is a freshman at Bosse High School who loves sports and Xbox, and his daughter Malasha (18) will be graduating from Bosse and going to ISU for nursing in the fall. Robert is extremely proud of his kids. He says, "I work to set a good example for them, and that hard work has paid off."

Robert has worked at the Shoe Carnival Warehouse for three years in the shipping and receiving department. "I like this job because it gives me more time to spend with my family." At present, Robert and his kids are staying with his grandmother Katie, but with his job secure, Robert wanted to find a place of his own for his family.

Robert says, "Monquie, the children's mother, pointed me to Habitat for Humanity, so I applied. I worked on my credit and didn't give up until I was accepted." Now in Habitat's homeownership program, Robert says, "Meeting new people through Habitat has opened me up a lot. It's easier when the people you meet are going through the same things." He also feels learning budgeting was good for him and working alongside the Core Crew has taught him that "building homes is beautiful. I want to teach my son, and once he is 16 I'd like to volunteer on Habitat homes together."

To Robert, "Owning a Habitat home will mean a lot, and the kids deserve it. For me and my family, this house will mean we have a home to create memories in together. It will mean I have succeeded and that we are going in the right direction to change. I can't wait to have the whole family to our home for holiday gatherings!"

Looking to the future, Robert would like to start his own business possibly refurbishing homes or in lawn care. He states, "I know life is going to be hard, but don't give up, always get back up, dust yourself off and keep on living."