



 **Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>  
of Evansville

**every homeowner  
has a story**

## **Future Habitat Homeowner Sandra B.**

Sandra B. started working part-time at age 11, full-time at age 16, and hasn't stop the mentality that hard work pays off. Once the kids were in high school, Sandra went back to school at got her degree in social work. She worked for 25 years in the mental health field before retiring due to hearing loss from working in the factories. Her son, Jesse (40), was born with cerebral palsy and continues to live with Sandra, while her step-daughter has since moved out. Jesse likes doing community events and Sandra loves gardening, especially vegetables and herbs.

Sandra and Jesse currently rent a 2-bedroom home in a less-than-ideal neighborhood. **"My son doesn't feel safe going for walks around the neighborhood,"** Sandra explains. **"There is a lot of violence and drug use."** The house they rent is older and has high ceilings, so the utility bills are fairly high.

Tony A. from HOPE of Evansville directed Sandra to Habitat for Humanity of Evansville and encouraged her to apply. **"[Applying] was an easy process. You just had to get your financial paperwork together and fill out the paperwork. I didn't think we would qualify, but when I read the email saying we'd been accepted I was overjoyed! I had to read it several times for it to sink in. Everyone here has been great to work with. You can tell everyone cares,"** Sandra says. **"I always wanted to own a house, but I never dreamed we get a new house!"**

Since partnering with Habitat in the journey towards affordable homeownership, Sandra has found herself becoming more informed and engaging with the community. **"The neighborhood associations especially have been very helpful in making me more knowledgeable about what's happening in our community. It's good to be informed,"** Sandra says. **"Serving with the Tri-State Food Bank has been wonderful...it was part of our sweat equity hours for Habitat. Also, I've enjoyed serving at the ReStore with Jesse...he even found himself a chair for our new home!"**

Sandra is an avid quilter, so the third bedroom in her new home will be solely dedicated to finishing her 50<sup>th</sup> quilt. **"The pattern is of bluebirds...which is very appropriate because "Bluebird of Happiness" reflects the happiness we feel as we move into and own our own home,"** Sandra says. Moving into their home will open so many doors for Sandra and her son, like getting new furniture and saving up for a new car. **"Right now, we don't have the extra cash to do the fun things in life...but with the savings from the affordable mortgage we'll have extra money. We will be able to go visit family more often, go out to eat occasionally, and plan small one-day vacations/trips...looking forward to making memories!"**

**"Owning a Habitat house will mean more independence, a better financial situation, and something that we feel like we can invest in."**