



Habitat for Humanity[®]
of Evansville

every homeowner
has a story

Future Habitat Homeowners Tim and Jennifer M.

Tim and Jennifer M. are a faith-driven and family-oriented couple who are eager to have a secure and stable home. They are the biological parents of four children between the ages of nineteen and thirty-two, and have six grandchildren: Zoey (5), Faith (3), Aaliyah (14), Ashlyn (13), and Audrey and Aubrey (11), who are twins. They are the adoptive parents of their oldest four grandchildren, who all enjoy staying active and playing sports. Jennifer has a degree in education and after 20 years working in retail, she decided to retire to stay at home to care and advocate for her adopted granddaughters. Tim is a pastor who has been at his current church for 11 years, though he has been in the ministry for over 30 years now. He has a Bachelor's degree in religious studies and a Master's degree in church growth. **"I've been preaching since I was fourteen,"** Tim states. **"I was called to ministry."** Although the couple's passion is for ministry, the line of work does not meet all of their financial needs, so Tim has always held a second job as a baker.

The family's current living situation is far from ideal. They describe their home as "inefficient," with sub-standard conditions which are leading to utility bills of around \$400 every month. The house is in serious need of both major and minor repairs, but the money required to fix everything simply isn't available. **"We've always worked,"** explains Jennifer. **"But with ministry you're never going to be wealthy."**

The couple says, **"We've known about Habitat for a while because we used to pick up kids for church in the Habitat-built subdivision New Haven."** However, the family didn't begin their work with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville until their oldest granddaughter filled out an application. **"We didn't think we would qualify,"** says Jennifer. **"But within a couple weeks, we got a call."** Their sweat equity process has been a rewarding one; although the family has already completed their required construction hours, they are continuing to donate time and effort toward insuring other families have access to affordable and decent living conditions. **"We've learned a lot, and we really like going out on the build sites and working with the Core Crew,"** says Tim. They also note that the Core Crew embodies the concept of "putting feet to your faith."

Tim and Jennifer believe their Habitat house will mean many great things for their family's future. **"We've always wanted to own a home, but it never came to be. Now we will have a stable place where we can retire and help get the kids through school."** Aaliyah, Ashlyn, Audrey, and Aubrey are all very eager to move into their future home, and the girls have begun planning which rooms they will choose and how they will decorate.

For Tim and Jennifer, their work with Habitat will not end when they move into their new home. They feel motivated to spread information to those they minister to and continue helping others in their journeys toward homeownership. **"We hope to keep volunteering on Saturdays after we're in the new home because everyone deserves decent housing. If you don't have a home-base, it's harder to succeed elsewhere. Everyone is someone's child, and they deserve better than sub-standard housing. We don't win until everyone has a good home."**