

MEET THE MCBRIDE FAMILY



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY



Surrounded by compassion and love, it's no surprise that the McBride family is thriving. Thanks to Habitat for Humanity St. Charles County, Joanna McBride will finally be able to create a safe home for her three children: Ja'Queez (8), Jay'Vion (6) and Trinity (4). Joanna needed a more spacious, accessible home for her children with disabilities. Between large medical machines and concern that Jay'Vion couldn't safely navigate their home, Joanna lived in perpetual worry. With a kitchen that often flooded, a cramped living environment and mold in the hallway, the McBride family faced daily challenges.

At first, Joanna was intimidated when she saw how many families applied for Habitat - all the while knowing only two families would be chosen - but as someone who has overcome many obstacles, Joanna had faith. Her advice to other families is to "never give up, stay committed and be patient." As part of the local community, Joanna herself volunteers at local agencies but never imagined her family would be chosen by Habitat. "I look forward to being able to open the door to a new home that people in our community and our family and friends built just so that we have a place to call home," Joanna shared.

Those challenges now include the risks of COVID-19. As a frontline medical worker, Joanna's family has been emotionally and physically impacted. "We try so hard on a normal day to keep Jay'Vion as healthy as possible and with COVID it's been very hard and scary for us," Joanna shared. In recent months, Joanna's mother and daughter contracted COVID-19. Taking leave of absence from work was not an option for Joanna, as she needed to provide for her family and work toward their Habitat home.

This new home will finally mean the McBride family can do more than survive - they will thrive. Joanna envisions the family doing activities they enjoy in an accessible, safe space. Trinity will cozy up in a reading nook, Jay'Vion will play in the yard, and Ja'Queez will choose movies for family movie night. The McBride family never gave up, and with the support of a community that cares, this family will now have a forever home.