

# MEET THE Taylor and Henderson Family

**“Persistence is key.” - Sonya Taylor**



Sonya and Neri are living examples of perseverance. This is Sonya's sixth time applying for a Habitat home. Finally, with the help of her sister Neri, Sonya has been selected to be a partner family! These sisters are tight-knit and extremely hard workers. They have to be told to take a break when the sun is too hot and keep working through the sweat with smiles on their faces. Sonya and Neri work hard every day to support each other and their families. Sonya, a Practical Nurse, is raising four of her grandchildren, while Neri raises her own

daughter and another of Sonya's grandkids. What these ladies want more than anything is safety and stability for the kids. Sonya is currently living in a trailer with visible signs of instability. Pieces of the ceiling have fallen, the walls are misaligned, the roof has caved in and been nailed up with a board, the floor is unstable in places, and there are drafts coming in through holes in windows. To heat or cool one side of the trailer, the other side must be closed off from the air flow. Even with these issues, the rent for the trailer has continued to increase. Neri is also living in an apartment with mold where the rent is taking up over half of her paycheck each month and continuing to rise.

Sonya can hardly believe after 6+ years of applying, she is finally getting to help build her very own home. Sonya and Neri will complete 350 sweat equity hours toward the purchase of their home, as well as pay an affordable mortgage. They can hardly wait for something they can call their own. Neri is excited to be able to afford a home that is safe for her kids. They both want to inspire their kids and grandkids to pursue homeownership and hope that this opportunity will give them a sense of pride.

The sisters heartily encourage anyone who is thinking of applying to the Habitat program to do it and to keep trying. They advise not to become discouraged, but to work on what needs attention and keep applying.

