



MEET THE HAMILTON FAMILY

“Habitat for Humanity is life-changing,” said Ashley Hamilton, as she and her close-knit family begin their exciting journey this year as one of five new homeowner partners selected by the local nonprofit to build and buy their new home.

This journey will be transformative in myriad ways for both the Hamilton family and Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County. The family – which consists of Ashley, spouse Jacob, and four children who range in ages from seven to 15 years old – will be among the first homeowners in Haven Pointe, Habitat’s new 46-home residential neighborhood in Wentzville, Missouri. The planned community is Habitat’s most ambitious undertaking yet in its 27-year history of building homes, hope and communities in St. Charles County.

A clean, safe and secure home that they help to build and pay an affordable mortgage on offers a fresh start to the busy family, which previously had been residing in a single-wide mobile home that offered little to accommodate their extraordinary need for space. Tiny bedrooms dictated that the family’s two teenagers share their spaces with much younger siblings. The lack of a quiet, dedicated space in which the children could study or accomplish homework assignments exacerbated the situation.

Deferred maintenance by the rental unit’s owner had made the family’s living situation untenable. When summer temperatures began to rise, repairs on an inoperable air conditioner took more than three months, which forced the family to arrange temporary off-site living arrangements. Other conditions included ongoing issues with precipitation entering the home through cracks around windows. The presence of unsightly black mold elicited health concerns. The family’s security also was in peril due to a front entry door that needed to be reframed and/or replaced. In addition, local wildlife began to nest under the unit.

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County offers a “hand up” opportunity that transforms lives. Ashley and Jacob will wield a hammer, a paint brush, and more in the construction of their new family home. Toward their hard-won efforts, they know they join hundreds of other Habitat for Humanity homeowner partners that have worked hard to accomplish the required 300 sweat-equity hours on the construction of their homes. In addition, the couple will participate in Habitat’s free financial education and coaching program, which includes insights into credit, budgeting, setting financial goals and saving money. They also will participate in Habitat’s complete tutorial on home maintenance.

“The security and comfort that this home will provide to our family allows us the opportunity to grow and thrive,” Ashley said. “God and Habitat have blessed our family with this amazing opportunity.” She also offers encouragement to people who may be considering applying for a Habitat home: “Just apply, because if you don’t try, you will never know what could have been!”