



## MEET THE HUMMEL FAMILY

The hard-working Hummel family enjoys spending time together outdoors at every opportunity they get. Ronald Hummel II and spouse Mahranda know that planning outdoor activities such as riding bikes, playing games in the yard and cooking on the grill are effective ways in which their busy family connects, but that it also helps to expend the boundless energy generated by their three children who range in ages nine, six and one.

Another reason the family navigates to the outdoors is that it resides in a home that is under constant and costly repairs. Ongoing central heating and cooling issues, as well as electrical concerns have limited the time the family can spend indoors. At one time, the entire kitchen was inaccessible to the family, so they used air fryers and a toaster oven to prepare meals. Window air conditioning units are used to cool small areas of the home during the heat of the summer months, but the family needs to hang blankets to section off areas that can't be sufficiently cooled for use. The entire family currently sleeps together in the home's living room due to flooring issues.

When the Hummels were accepted as one of this year's Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County partner homeowners, they were overjoyed at the opportunity to help build their own home. The experience will be transformative as they imagine how their lives will be impacted: "We will have a more peaceful and structured home life, and establish a routine for the children that will help them thrive in an environment in which they can learn and grow," Ronald said. "For the first time, we'll be able to host holiday celebrations with extended family members in our new home and make memories that have been lost to us over our many years of constant struggles."

The Hummels join four other selected homeowner partners in the building of their homes in Haven Pointe, Habitat's newest planned 46-home community in Wentzville, Missouri. Ronald and Mahranda will complete the required 300 sweat-equity hours in the construction of their new home, as well as assist in the construction of homes for other Habitat homeowner partners. In addition, the couple will navigate Habitat's free financial literacy program and participate in Habitat's complete tutorial on home maintenance.

"Becoming a homeowner partner with Habitat offers many blessings," Ronald said. "It's providing us with a helping hand to purchase a decent, affordable home that we have the honor of helping to build ourselves, while working alongside so many others who share Habitat's vision."