

"Home to me means security."

The stereotypical American Dream of a home with a white picket fence is a vision of tranquility Tangerla Burton has never dared to dream.

"I never thought I would ever be able to purchase a home of my own because I don't have the means," said Tangerla. Instead, her dreams have been much more basic: a safe, secure environment for her four sons, Mark, Jermaine, Jaiden and Jayceon.

Now that she has been accepted into the Habitat Hillsborough program, Tangerla is excited about her family's future. And, yes, while it doesn't have a picket fence, she's now dreaming of an idyllic home of their own where they can live comfortably, affordably and securely while making memories together.

As a medical records imaging technician, Tangerla's modest income is spread thin as she struggles each month to juggle rent and household bills.

Her three-bedroom apartment rent consumes a large percentage of her income, but it is the trade-off she's

The Burton Family



every mother

needs a safe, secure home for her children.

had to make in order to provide adequate shelter that has enough space for her family of five.

The apartment is an older structure with many unaddressed maintenance issues. They endure plumbing and air conditioning issues, and faulty electrical concerns that chronically throw the breaker. Tangerla is particularly frustrated with the threat of the apartment flooding

from the patio that overflows every time there is heavy rainfall.

Tangerla is looking forward to the day she turns the key on a home she believes will bring the family the stability and peace of mind she has dreamed of for many years.

"Owning my own home not only provides my family with stability, but it is also an investment that can be passed on to my kids."