

The Fowler Family

"Owning my own home will allow my kids to not worry about moving and to be able to safely play outside."

Home for Narecia Fowler means stability and peace for herself and her young family.

"We have been through a lot these last few years, including a domestic violence situation, and being able to finally have a place to call home is the answer to my prayers," said Narecia.

For Narecia, trying to find affordable housing meant moving from place to place, not only to find a less expensive option, but also to escape poorly maintained properties with the unhealthy living conditions that tend to accrue in substandard rentals.

The Fowler family's previous apartment had severe mold issues due to water soaking the living room carpet whenever it rained. The bathroom also had chronic mold issues. Maintenance problems were never addressed so the family relocated again to a new apartment. While their current place does not have mold problems, the air conditioning unit doesn't cool properly. So the apartment is warm and the utility bill is high because the unit never shuts off. And the rent is also higher.

Trying to find safe, secure and affordable housing has been an ongoing challenge for Narecia, but she has done her best with her modest income as a bank teller. "I've been trying to get a house for years, but was never able to get approved," said Narecia.

Narecia has always worked hard to help not just herself, but her parents too. "I worked hard for everything I ever got," said Narecia. "I worked three jobs to be able to help my mom and dad when I was finishing up high school and entering into college to help them get established in their home."

Her experiences have made her all the more thankful for the



Habitat for Humanity program. It has enabled her dream of providing a safe home for her children, Calleigh, Makayla and baby Caleb, to become a reality. She knows she still has hard work ahead as she completes her 300 sweat equity hours and homeowner classes. But she also knows it is well worth it for the opportunity to finally purchase a home she can afford.

"I am so grateful to have such caring and amazing people who are dedicating their time to help my family have a stable environment to live in. Words cannot explain how thankful I am."