



Habitat for Humanity[®]

of Hillsborough County Florida, Inc.



Holiday Home Build with the Gators



The Matute Family

Johanna Matute is an Accountant for the Hillsborough County School District. Johanna has been renting a studio apartment from friends for years and has lived in one room for most of her adult life since moving here in 2003 from Venezuela with her sister.

As a child in a big family, Johanna was used to sharing her space with siblings and now with her 11-year-old daughter, Kamilah, who lives in the studio with her. Johanna knows it's time to find a space big enough for the two of them: a place they can call their own. "As [my] daughter matures, it's important to get her own space," says Johanna when explaining her motivation for joining the Habitat Homeownership program.

Johanna hopes that the stability that an affordable mortgage provides will enable her to plan for her family's financial future. She is excited to take part in the education classes that are part of the Habitat program and perhaps learn about ways to invest her money going forward!

Working with volunteers is a big part of the Habitat program as every family completes 300 hours of sweat equity, which can be completed on our Habitat build sites and ReStores.

When asked what she would say to those who help build her family's brand-new home, Johanna says, "Their help and support is very appreciated. By their willingness to give time and dedication, not only the volunteers [who] are giving to the community, but they are also making our life better and contributing to our success."