

Home Ownership= The Key to Education

Vanessa*, a single mom, continues to work two-part time jobs to make ends meet. Vanessa is the mother of two young boys: Jonathan*, an 11 year-old middle schooler, and Devin*, a 17 year-old high schooler. Devin also works a part-time job after school to help his mother with the bills. Both boys are very athletic. Vanessa keeps them in organized sports to keep them off the streets where they live. Both boys are honor roll students despite the neighborhood that surrounds their home. The family lives with Vanessa's aging father in this substandard, 800 square foot, two-bedroom house built in the early 1950's. Vanessa is a hard worker but has aspirations of attending classes to become an LPN at a local college as she is focused on providing a safe after school environment for the boys.

One day Vanessa learns of Habitat Savannah's Call for Applications. Vanessa submits the necessary paperwork and is thrilled when she learns she has been chosen to become a Habitat Savannah homeowner. Vanessa has to juggle her work schedules but in the end successfully manages to put in the 350 sweat equity hours required to own a home.

Three months later, Vanessa and her boys move into their new 1100 square-foot home in Tatemville. With the move the boys flourish academically as they now have the space and peace of mind to learn. The move to a Habitat home has inspired Devin to enroll at a local college in the fall thanks to a scholarship he earned. With Jonathan and Devin's support and encouragement, Vanessa has now enrolled in LPN classes. The family's future looks bright as their potential income level will rise with their education levels. Home ownership can truly change a family's future.

**name changed to maintain privacy*