

## THE WILSON'S FAMILY JOURNEY TO HOMEOWNERSHIP



Hi, my name is Lekisha Wilson. I am a single parent that lives in Portsmouth in a market rent apartment. I grew up living with my mother, sister, and brother in a small dilapidated house that had no running water until I was 17 years old. At the age of seventeen my childhood home was condemned, and we were forced to move. We were told that our home was not fit for living. Receiving the devastating news made me realize as a young teen that if I were to ever have children, I would do everything within my power to provide safe living conditions for them. I had it in my mind that history would not be repeated. I was determined to not ever live in inadequate living conditions again. I knew the only way to make this happen was to work for it. Straight out of high school I went to college and worked two jobs until I experienced a minor setback. Two major events took place, the birth of my daughter and my mom became seriously ill. My sister and I took care of her until she passed in 2014.

While taking care of my mom, I learned of the Habitat for Humanity Affordable housing program. I was told that Habitat for Humanity helped low income families achieve their dreams in becoming a homeowner. Throughout the years I applied for a home and would always receive a rejection letter stating someone else was in greater need. Receiving news as such was very discouraging, considering I worked extremely hard to improve my credit and to meet all the program qualifications. I was proud of my accomplishments; I was within the income guidelines and had no judgments on my credit report. Some would have given up after being rejected several times, but I became tenacious and decide to reapply in 2019. I believed strongly in my heart that I would be selected. I was right. I reapplied, and later received an approval letter. My motivation was to remove my daughter out of the very same situation I experienced as a young girl. We were living in a home with inadequate water supply.

So, as you can see it has been a long journey pursuing homeownership, but I am finally on the last step to becoming a HOMEOWNER. I have been accepted in the program and have been working whole heartily to excel in the program. My sweat equity hours have been completed before schedule and I have never missed a homeownership class. I am determined to become a Habitat for Humanity homeowner. This has been my one desire and I know with hard work and dedication I will soon have a home to call my own. Being in the program has forwarded me the opportunity to help others achieve homeownership. I am happy to be part of the “**Habitat Family**”! I will always be grateful for my new family. Each home is built with love, sweat, and hard work. What I love most about the program is that people come together to help those in need, not looking for anything in return. I can finally have a piece of mind when I close my eyes at night knowing that my family will be safe and living in our OWN home!