



Habitat Partner Family

Merita Polk



Every step that Merita Polk takes towards her lifelong dream of homeownership is done with a visible level of enthusiasm. "I just feel blessed to be in this program."

Ms. Polk has overcome a great deal of adversity the past few years. Diagnosed with cancer in 2010, she spent a year going through chemotherapy and radiation. "I struggled, but I never lost hope."

Hope is what drives Merita, despite her current living conditions. She lives in a small one bedroom apartment in Franklin that needs a lot of work. "My apartment has mold, the roof and the walls leak, and my landlord rarely makes repairs. I heat my apartment with a kerosene heater in the winter. But, this Habitat for Humanity program has renewed my hope that my future will be better."

A native of Franklin, Merita attended Franklin High School and has a close connection to the neighborhood where her home will be built. In fact, she has known her neighbor-to-be Annie Dixon since elementary school. The two will be next door neighbors on Natchez Street, and like Annie's home build 2013, Merita's home will be sponsored through the generosity of Nissan.

"I applied to the homeownership program twice before I was accepted. I have always prayed and believed that I would one day have my own home and now it is becoming a reality." Merita works in the laundry department at NHC Healthcare in Franklin and attends Liberty Temple Trinity Church.

"I want people to know that I worked hard to earn this home, and with God's help, he provided a way!"

Ms. Polk's house is the ninth home built by Nissan North America and is scheduled to break ground on October 15, 2015. Her dedication is planned for November 13, 2015.