



Habitat Future Homeowner **Kayla White**



Kayla White breathed a sigh of relief when she received news of her acceptance into the Habitat for Humanity Homeownership Program. The chance to buy a home of her own is a dream come true for the single mother and her eight-year-old son, Javin Cecil.

Ms. White experienced homelessness as a young girl, so having a stable home for Javin has great meaning to her. "My mother and I would have to wander all night, not knowing where we would lay our heads. Thanks to the goodness of a stranger, we got back on our feet. Someone gave us a hand up, much as Habitat is doing now. It meant the world to us!"

"My childhood was rough. I went through a great deal of challenging life circumstances,

including leaving high school when I became pregnant. I want stability for my son and I am working hard to build a solid future for us both."

The Drury Plaza Hotel in Franklin has employed Kayla for the past four years, and she is currently working her way into a supervisory position. "I recognize and appreciate the good things in my life. Javin and I focus on the positive and find joy in our life together. Sometimes we go to Percy Priest Lake to grill and just enjoy nature. It's the simple things that make us happy."

Ms. White drives more than 60 miles roundtrip to work and lives in an area that she describes as "less than optimum" for her son's upbringing. "I look forward to being part of a neighborhood where Javin can play with other kids. I am so grateful to my sponsors for believing in me. I want to give them a big hug, look them in the eyes, and say thank you."

The White Family will build alongside volunteers during the 2017 Habitat High Build, which will commence on February 25, 2017 in the Overlook Subdivision of north Columbia. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for Mid-April.