

Family Biography

Monica grew up in tiny apartments with her parents and five siblings. She always wanted more for her sons, Mark and Maurion, but wasn't sure how that would ever happen as buying a home always seemed out of reach. She has a good job as a Patient Care Tech at a local hospital, but money is tight with two children and a single income. One day, a coworker told Monica about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton and encouraged her to apply. Monica was accepted into our homeownership program, her journey to becoming a homeowner officially began! Monica has been working to own a Habitat home for nearly five years. Monica's faith has kept her spirits high during the lengthy process and she never gave up on herself or her dream.

When Monica reached the point of selecting a lot for her future home she knew she wanted to live in Clayton. She shared that Clayton has always felt peaceful to her and she cannot wait to join the community. Once she selected the site for her future home she started driving by every day on her way to or from work. When it was time for Monica to select her flooring and countertops for her home, she let her sons make all the decisions so that they felt as involved as possible. Monica is grateful that they picked options that she approved of. The Riverside apartment was tiny, but it was a nice enough place and they knew they could stick it out there until their Habitat home was built. That changed after the Memorial Day tornadoes in 2019.

Monica was working a night shift at her hospital when the storms began. She remembers hearing the warnings but not thinking anything of them as warnings went off before and nothing happened. She had to help move all the patients into the hallways, away from the glass windows in their rooms. By the time she was done moving patients out, the storms were over and she had to move everyone back. She was in Englewood and her area mostly got heavy rain, no tornadoes. Mark and Maurion were at their apartment in Riverside where tornadoes did touch down. Thankfully, her sons made it into their safe space, the bathroom of their apartment, and were physically unharmed. A tornado ripped its way through her apartment complex and completely removed the roof from her sons' bedroom. Monica was able to connect with the boys and make sure they were safe, while she headed home as soon as she could. Driving home was nearly impossible with all the power lines and trees in the roads that were knocked over during the storms. The longer it took her to get home, the more anxious she became. When she finally made it home and saw the roof missing from her apartment, she felt terrified and overwhelmed.

Unlike so many others, her apartment owner had excellent insurance and assured her that they would fix the damage. A team sealed off the boys' room, mostly everything inside it was ruined. The boys slept in the living room on the couch for several months while construction was being completed. They went from sharing a room to no room. Monica still gets anxious when she hears thunder, as do her sons. Their new home in Clayton is five minutes away from Monica's work which she hopes will help with the traumatic anxiety she now suffers.

Monica, Mark, and Maurion will be wonderful additions to the Clayton community. Thank you for supporting them through their Habitat journey.



"Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton brings people together to build homes, communities and hope."



Dedication of the Home of



The Thomas Family

244 Prospect Avenue

Dayton, OH 45416

Friday October 23, 2020

BLESSING OF THE HOME

Welcome: *Norm Miozzi, Dir. of Habitat of Greater Dayton*

Introductions: City of Dayton & Montgomery County

Opening Prayer: *All*

As we recall the love that raised the money, the gifts and talents offered by many people and the new life now awaiting Monica and her family, we consecrate this home. May the members of this family be filled with the grace and love of God in all they do. Peace to this home and to all who enter here.

All: Amen.

LITANY OF LIFE

As a symbol of cooperative goodwill, work and sharing:

All: We dedicate this home.

For family living, a place of love and respect among all members of the family:

All: We dedicate this home.

As a place where the family may grow, play, and learn:

All: We dedicate this home.

That this house may serve as a place for rest, shelter and laughter:

All: We dedicate this home.

Because this house was made possible through the generosity of so many people—the volunteers, the donors of labor and materials, and the gifts of money:

All: We dedicate this home.

As an inspiration for building more homes in the months ahead; for the volunteer work, service, and support offered by many:

All: We dedicate this home.

We dedicate this home as a monument to the united commitment and generous spirit that have made it possible:

All: Amen.

SPONSORS

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VOLUNTEERS

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PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND KEYS

Kelly Uhl, *Secret Smiles*

M. Alice Callier & Delores Robinson, *AKA Sorority, Inc. BHO Chapter*

Dianna Cordle, *Holiday Inn Dayton/Fairborn*

Donna Courtney, *Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church*

Kevin Sorice, *Project Read*

Frank Perez, *Centerville Rotary*

Elexus Renner, *on behalf of Kiwanis Club/ Bookcases*

Marsha Martin, *Homeowner Services Mgr, Habitat of Greater Dayton*

Family Remarks, *The Thomas Family*

, *Director of Construction, Habitat of Greater Dayton*