



## Kimberly, Tobias, Tavon & Tamya

Kimberly Shephard is a single mother of 3 children, and admits to having a hard time raising her children alone. They lived for 7 years in section 8 housing, and got a better housing opportunity when Kimberly transitioned into a better paying position. Currently living in a 3 bedroom house, Kimberly believed she was doing well by her children until the trouble of drugs and gunfire began to ring out in her neighborhood. Now, the family has a need to escape the violence of the neighborhood, and Kimberly did not have much knowledge of where to go or what community programs she should look into first. A family member and current Habitat Homeowner told Kimberly about Habitat for Humanity, and Kimberly gave Habitat a call. She loved the concept of a Christian based organization and having people volunteer to help others with building their homes. She went through the selection process and was chosen to become a partner family.

Kimberly worked at Miami Valley Hospital as a Unit Clerk for 7 years. She currently works for a local mental health facility as an Intake Clerk, and she has done so for almost 8 years. At her current position she has the responsibility of processing new intakes, providing a release of information for other agencies, assisting with housing vouchers for people in need of Section 8, and assisting clients with SSI claims. She is a volunteer for her church and works with Five Rivers Metro Parks with their children's after school program. Kimberly says she's the only surviving family member from her immediate family, but does have distant relatives in which she can call on for help in emergencies. Her 3 children are Tobias, 17, a high school sophomore who wants to be an Architect and play pro-football someday. Tavon, 15, is a high school freshman who enjoys the outdoors, and participates in sports like track and baseball but has plans of entering the career of Law Enforcement. Tamya, 14, is an 8th grader who enjoys cheerleading, soccer, track and has plans to join the field of nursing when she graduates. All of the children are A and B students in school.

As Kimberly reflects on the excitement of accruing sweat equity she says, the best time was during the Hooping for Habitat event, and watching the staff battle each other in the basketball tournament. She saw a bond among the staff and just enjoyed being in their company. She worked in the ReStore and gained a wealth of experience in learning the methods of retail operations. Her favorite class was Money Skills which taught her to make better decisions on how to spend and save money. Kimberly says that she is happy she decided on Habitat, and she and the children are very excited to become homeowners. "Homeownership was always a dream to me, but now that dream has come true for me and my family", said Kimberly.