



Tina Lake & Family

Tina Lake, a mother of two and a Dayton native came to the Habitat for Humanity program in 2015 after a current Habitat homeowner and relative told Tina about the program. Tina praised the craftsmanship and asked many questions about the home that her relative lives in. Tina immediately went to the Habitat office to sign up for the next orientation. For the last 5 years she has been afraid to let her children venture outside because of the troubled youth and crime that takes place within the neighborhood where she rents. She realizes it is no way for a child to live, and has been looking for a way to move her children into a safe neighborhood. Tina says that the Habitat homeownership program was the best opportunity she found to not only move her children to a better neighborhood but also, give her a chance to own her home instead of renting a home.

Tina knows, personally, the effect that homeownership and a safe environment have on a child. Tina was adopted when she was 2 months old after being abandoned at birth by her mother. On mother's day 2015, she decided to find out who her birth parents were and discovered that both of her parents have passed away. Tina found that she had two sisters and has bonded with them. Through research, Tina discovered she had a famous cousin, David Ruffin who was the former lead singer for the Motown group, The Temptations. She was inspired to hear and understand her family background so she could share with her children. Tina cites the upbringing that her adopted parents gave her to work hard in order to realize her dreams. She loves and praises the opportunities that they provided her growing up. Tina has a daughter Ty'Lynn, 12, is a 6th grader who likes dancing, hairstyling, and a B average student with perfect attendance. Her son Ty'Rell, 7, is in 2nd grade and likes football, basketball, electronics, and is an honor roll student. She would like to provide the same opportunity she received, for her own children.

Tina says the Habitat program has given her the opportunity to be a leader with her family by demonstrating how to become self-sufficient, and passing on new skills she learned through the homeownership classes. She says the money skills and Nutrition classes were the best for her family. Not only did she learn to eat well but also, how to save money in the process. "The homeownership program allows me to hold my head up and say to my children, this is our home." Tina goes on to say they don't have to worry about being afraid to walk out of the house to face the violence they once had to endure. "I am happy to be a homeowner while demonstrating to my children that with prayer and hard work, anything is possible", said Tina. Hard work and prayer will enable her to be a homeowner for the first time in her life and give a safe, secure environment for her children in which they can grow.