

# Partner Family

*Now more than ever, Help Build It!*



## Women Build 2016

### *The McGee Family*

As soon as Antoinette McGee began sharing her story, it was clear the excitement her children had looking forward into their future, being she could barely get a word in over her children's enthusiasm.

"The new house will be so much better! It will be more fun, we will have our own rooms, it will be our own home and we can say we own it (unlike our current, small apartment). We can't wait to have a backyard, bigger kitchen, living room space and a big bathtub," Ericka said with excitement.

Antoinette is a hardworking single mother of four – Dakota, 15, twins Ericka & Jada, 12, and Makayla, 6 months – who works at the Madisonville Library Branch and is currently living in a three bedroom apartment with her mother and her four children. Her rent and utilities alone are 52% of her income, causing her to be very rent-burdened.

The McGee Family is very tight-knit and family focused, which is why every night after work, school, homework and baths they always sit down and have dinner as a family.

Once they move into their new home, the children will still have the same chores they currently have to help teach them responsibility – taking out the trash, picking up after themselves, laundry and dishes.

Antoinette's biggest cheerleader in life and on her journey to homeownership is her mother and children. "This is all for my kids. I'm their mother and I want what's best for them," Antoinette said.

The future is certainly bright for her children. They are



involved in numerous community activities including: attending Church of the King, softball, cheering, gymnastics and basketball. Dakota is working to become an engineer or architect and Ericka has dreams of becoming a nurse.

"I want to work at Lakeview Hospital when I grow up and work in the baby nursery, but I do not want to have to give shots!" Ericka said.

When asked if the family has made any decorating decisions, Ericka and Jada enthusiastically jumped in saying they have been watching HGTV and have been looking online for ideas for their future bedrooms. They want to have a teal and/or light purple theme to their rooms.

The McGee Family is part of Women Build 2016. Women Build is a Habitat for Humanity International program that seeks to encourage women volunteers, without excluding men, to further the home building mission of Habitat for Humanity and positively impact the lives of children by making homeownership a reality for families.

Just like the mission of Women Build, Antoinette tries to empower and encourage her children daily.

"My mom is there when we need her. She always puts us first and teaches us to be who we are. She also teaches us that we can do anything as long as we try," said Ericka.

Antoinette agreed and included, "I tell them they can also overcome anything as long as they work for it."

The McGee Family is excited to be a part of Women Build 2016 and to be neighbors with the other Women Build future homeowner, Carly McHugh. Through numerous hours spent working together side-by-side earning their sweat equity hours working on site and in educational classes, Carly and Antoinette have become close friends and support for each other through this journey to homeownership.