

Partner Family

Now more than ever, Help Build It!



Women Build 2016

The McHugh Family

"Owning my own home means it is mine and I will have stability. It's not something I will have to give back and I will have something to show for all of my hard work," said Carly McHugh.

Hard work and helping others is what Carly is all about, along with her amazing sense of humor.



Carly, originally from Michigan, moved down south to Louisiana with her fur child, Daryl the dog. She began working at the Little Red Schoolhouse in Covington as the two-year-old classroom teacher. She didn't know it at the time, but the Little Red Schoolhouse would be the stepping stone to her future in homeownership. It is there where she was introduced to Habitat for Humanity and it's also home to her biggest cheerleaders, encouragers and supporters on this journey.

Carly currently lives in 375 square feet with her roommate to help with the cost of rent. Her biggest safety concern of her current rental is electrical issues. The microwave and refrigerator cannot be used at the same time or a breaker will blow and have to be reset by walking outdoors. In order to open the refrigerator door, you must know exactly what you need because if the door is held open too long the breaker will blow.

"The challenge of renting is trying to find somewhere that is affordable and isn't falling apart. Also, finding a landlord who will actually maintain the property," Carly said.

The biggest difference between the old and new place will be space. Carly will be able to finally have company over. With her brother and sister-in-law expecting a baby in December, she will be able to host them and have space for her future niece or nephew to stay and play.

Not only is Carly excited about having company over, but she's just as excited to decorate her own home. Carly's favorite color is lime green and she loves anything with a moose. Her goal is to find a moose mailbox for her new home. She can't wait to have a fenced in backyard with a patio for entertaining.

Looking into the future, Carly says, "I have learned how to save through Habitat's homebuyer classes and once I pay off my home I will be 60 years old and will no longer have a house note. I will be able to retire with a peace of mind that I own my own home and will be able to take a vacation."

Carly 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, Carly tries to empower and encourage the children in her classroom daily.

"I encourage them to learn something new, use their words to communicate and at the end of every day I share something good they did with their parents when they are picked up. To see a child learn and know I taught them how to communicate or problem solve is very rewarding and empowering," Carly said.