

# Partner Family

*Now more than ever, Help Build It!*



## Volunteering Makes My Soul Sing!

*The Harrison Family*

After obtaining her college degree in Accounting, Derel set out for a career in accounting. Several years later her cousin recruited her to work for a large corporation where there was more stability. However, it involved a lot of physical labor and her body and wellbeing slowly began to deteriorate. After working there for nine years and after numerous knee, back and neck surgeries it was time she called it quits. Due to these work related injuries she is unable to work full time and relies on disability and income from her part time job.



At the age of 62, Derel has never owned her own home. In her previous marriage it was in her husband's name, therefore, allowing him to kick her out of his house. Derel currently rents a small home in Lacombe where the mold and mildew overpowers your senses from the moment you walk in. She is unable to have friend and family gatherings because of the unsafe living conditions like the gas heater going up in flames.

Not only is her current home unsafe, it's also unhealthy. Due to the mold and mildew, she has a constant cough, sneeze and respiratory issues. The smell is so bad she spends a portion of her income on air fresheners and perfume to cover up the mildew smell.

"A home means everything to me. It means my life. I'm a homebody, but I love to cook and entertain."

Once she moves into her new Habitat home, Derel will finally be able to have family and friends over - specifically, her first cousin, Shanlynn, who is her biggest cheerleader and supporter. She will also finally have a place to call her own and be able to age in place without having to move around anymore.

Derel would like to thank each and everyone who has helped her in her Habitat journey to homeownership. Volunteering is something that has always been a part of Derel's life and something she holds close to her heart.

"Volunteering makes my soul sing. It comes from the goodness of your heart. Let your heart lead your mind," said Derel.

The Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West ReStore profits help to build two to three homes every year. Derel's home will be one of the homes built by the ReStore in 2016.