Partner Family
Now more than ever, Help Build It!

Habitat for Humanity®
St. Tammany West

Women Build 2017

The Gaines Family

Felicia Gaines, who works at St. Tammany Parish Hospital in the housekeeping department for the surgery division, has been renting the same apartment for five years. Every year the landlord hikes up the price of rent, which led her to search for ways to one day own her own home, and ultimately, to Habitat STW. Felicia and her two children, Geovanni, 12, and G'Anni, 10, are currently overcrowded in these living conditions and fear that if a heavy storm comes, the roof will suffer further damage.

"I look forward to having my own home. It'll be mine. The kids will have their own space and I'll finally have a yard. Being on the 2nd floor of an apartment building, I'm unable to have that. Geovanni can help mow the grass and I can garden. I don't really know how to garden, but I can learn!" Felicia said.

Not only is Felicia excited about her future yard, she's looking forward to decorating her own home she can finally call hers.

"Geovanni's room will be done in all Saints decor and G'Anni's room will be done in emojis. I'm focused on their rooms first and then I'll worry about mine later," said Felicia.

Geovanni and G'Anni are both involved in their church, Starlight Baptist, and play basketball at Covington Recreational Center. They have dreams of becoming teachers and continuing to help other people when they can.

"We have a lot of fun. We play hard and love hard," says Felicia.

The Gaines Family is part of Women Build 2017. 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, Felicia tries to empower and encourage her children daily.

"I encourage them to learn things on their own, never stop learning and that they can do anything they set their mind to," said Felicia.