

# Partner Family

*Now more than ever, Help Build It!*



## Close to home...

### *The Johnson Family*

Nikki Johnson has put in numerous sweat equity hours for her future Habitat home not only for her children, but for her younger sister, Gigi, who has been there for her through life's ups and downs.

"We lost our mom when I was 16 years old and I would say it brought us closer.

All we had was each other and we have ever since – we're a very close knit family," said Nikki.

Nikki's children, Valeigh age 7 and Dustin age 5, want to be a dance teacher and video game designer when they grow up. Gigi's daughter, Jayleigh, is two months old and will soon be able to crawl on the safe floors of their new home.

Nikki is a manager at Mc Donald's on Highway 25 in Covington and Gigi is a Crew Member at the same location. Their support for one another continues from work to home. Nikki gets up at 4am to head into work and a few hours later Gigi gets the kids up and off to school. Once Nikki gets home from work midday, Gigi goes into work and Nikki takes care of the kids, helping to finish their homework and get them ready for bed.



Currently, the tight knit family of five live in a two bedroom trailer in Covington with several safety concerns. The biggest safety concern is that the floors are unfinished, leaving spots where the children can fall through and critters can find their way in, and the water stops running suddenly while in use.

"The biggest difference between the old living conditions and the new will be a stronger, safer foundation and structure," Nikki said. The Johnson family will also be closer to the home in which they are familiar with, where they grew up, and closer to family.

"I've always wanted to be close to home and have my kids to go to the same schools I grew up going to, but rent in Mandeville was so expensive. Now, I'll be able to live in a safe, stable home just a few blocks from where I grew up and will be able to raise my kids. All of our family and friends are in Mandeville so we will be moving back to where I call home."

The Johnson Family home will be part of the OctoberFeast event held in Mandeville from October 5-9th. Habitat STW will use the proceeds raised from this event to help construct Nikki's Habitat Home located on Livingston Street in Mandeville. To find out more about this event, please visit [habitatstw.org](http://habitatstw.org).