

# Partner Family

*Now more than ever, Help Build It!*



## Building A Future

### *The Stephens Family*



To Michelle Stephens, “home” means family. It means laughter in the hallways, safety, love and happiness. This is why Michelle is currently on her journey to homeownership. She will not only build a home, but will also build the strength, stability,

and self-reliance for her family’s future.

Michelle is a single mother who lives with her four children, 7 year old Bella, 6 year old Zoey, 4 year old Julian, and 1 year old Jax. Their 2 bedroom apartment is extremely overcrowded, resulting in Michelle having to sleep in the living room. She works at J. C. Penney as a Cashier Specialty Supervisor, but the cost of her housing has left her rent burdened. Michelle has tried to search for better living options, but could not find affordable housing that could make the change possible.

After learning about Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West (Habitat STW) from a co-worker, Michelle improved her credit, applied for the program, and ultimately was accepted to partner with Habitat STW in June 2018 in order to purchase a home with a no interest mortgage.

Although it is tough juggling work and completing her required sweat equity hours, Michelle stays motivated by her children and the quote, “Your greatest contribution to the Kingdom of God may not be something you do, but someone you raise.” She thoroughly enjoys working on the construction sites, as she loves learning new things from the crew and meeting all the volunteers. Michelle has become so inspired by the people she’s met during her Habitat journey that she has decided to attend school to become an EMT after she purchases her new home.

“I’ve never met so many good people in my life,” says Michelle. “I want to work in a field that helps my community, just like my community has helped me.”

“To all the volunteers, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for not only helping me, but your community. It takes a lot to come out and take time from your day to help a neighbor, and for that I cannot thank everyone enough”