

# Family Partner Profile



Habitat  
for Humanity®  
St. Tammany West

The Causey Family

Women Build fueled by  
the human energy company™  
Chevron

"Keep moving forward!" is the motto that the Causey family lives by. Jonika Causey is motivated by her children daily and the fact she can do anything she puts her mind to. In return, she instills in her children to keep moving forward no matter what obstacles are thrown their way.



Jonika lives in Washington Parish and commutes an hour each way to Lacombe where she works as a nurse at Northshore Extended Care. She is looking forward to her new Habitat STW home where she will have more room for her family and her commute time with drastically be cut. It will also allow her to be closer to her children in case of an emergency. Currently, she has to find someone nearby to pick them up or her children have to wait an hour for her to get home.

Jonika and her four children, ages 13, 12, 7 and 5, currently live in a rental house in Franklinton. Her room is a porch converted into a bedroom. The house, which is affordable to her, is overcrowded and unsafe. The foundation has shifted, the floors have buckled, shingles are falling off, there is mold in her daughter's room and she is constantly fighting rodents from getting inside due to the foundation shifting.

These current living conditions have helped her keep moving forward and working towards her 300 hours of sweat equity, one of the requirements of becoming a Habitat STW partner family. These hours consist of construction time building their home, their neighbors home, working in the ReStore (Habitat STW's retail operation) and educational classes on how to put together a budget, simple home repairs and more.

What excites Jonika most about owning her own home? Freedom. "I want to show my kids that you can get what you want by working for it. They saw me on the couch many nights with my face in a book studying for nursing school, sometimes crying with frustration, but I kept going. Sometimes I failed, but I never stopped. I want my kids to know that you have to keep working hard no matter the obstacles thrown your way. I also want to teach them the value of owning a home, how to maintain it and how to manage everyday life and responsibility."

These go-getter values are apparent in her daughter, Jakoya, because when asked what she wants to be when she grows up, her answer is The President. "I tell her to keep working hard and moving forward. You will face challenges, but keep working towards your goals," said Jonika.

The construction of the Causey Family Home will be a part of Women Build 2020 Fueled by Chevron. Women Build is an annual project in which Habitat STW brings together women from all walks of life to actively address the problem of children living in poverty by building safe, affordable homes.