

Family Partner Profile



Habitat
for Humanity®
St. Tammany West

The Pearson Family

Women Build fueled by
the human energy company™
Chevron

"In my life I've had so many people tell me that I'm never going to have anything-never anything I can call my own," says Ami Pearson.



A single mother of four, Ami has endured many trials and tribulations. After a terrible divorce and ultimately the death of her ex-husband, Ami and her children were financially unstable and homeless. While living in Florida the Pearsons moved from group home to group home, until applying for government housing. Riddled with unsafe activity, the apartment complex did not provide them with security and stability. Ami dreamed of purchasing her own home, but realized she would need to make changes to start the process. She decided to move back to her home of Louisiana and live with her parents. With this first step, Ami knew better days were to come.

Ami now lives in Lacombe with her parents and her 4 children, 17 year old Maddie, 14 year old Savannah, 11 year old Joy, and 9 year old Logan. Ami searched for housing in St. Tammany Parish but found she could not get approved for apartments due to the debt and credit accumulated from her marriage. She decided to focus her energy on her job as a house cleaner and stabilizing her finances, all with the goal of homeownership motivating her. One day, Ami learned of Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West (Habitat STW) from a friend and decided to make an appointment with the Homeownership Center. During this appointment she learned of the criteria to be a Habitat homebuyer, including having to complete 300-400 hours of sweat equity.

"There's this misconception that these houses are given away for free," Ami stated. "There's a lot of labor you have to put into it. You have to work on the construction site,

work at the ReStore, and complete homeownership classes. It's a lot of hard work, but hard work pays off. I knew this program was the only chance for me to buy a home. I knew this was my ultimate opportunity, and I was going to take it."

For the next 5 years, Ami worked with housing counselor Kevin to manage her credit and save money. It was a long and tiring process, but it was all worth it for the day she was approved to become a Habitat STW Homebuyer. It brought tears to her eyes knowing that she was one step closer to her dream.

The construction of the Pearson 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. Ami has enjoyed her time with Habitat STW completing her sweat equity hours. She enjoys working with the construction staff and bonding with other Habitat STW homebuyers.

Ami's biggest motivation for becoming a homeowner has always been her children. She looks forward to the day when they can move in and make the house a home. Her kids are extremely excited about decorating their own rooms, while Ami anticipates her future home dedication, where their home will be blessed by a pastor. Slowly, but surely Ami's glory is being revealed. The days of judgement are long gone, replaced with mentors, volunteers, and friends all working alongside Ami to help her build the strength, stability, and self-reliance for a better future.

"To all the volunteers, this would be impossible without you," says Ami. "It really does take a village. We are so appreciative of everyone who has sacrificed their time to help my family. Words cannot express how grateful we are. Coming together is a lot of hard work, but the Lord above recognizes all of your hard work."