

# Habitat Homebuyer

*Now more than ever, Help Build It!*



## Women Build 2018 Fueled By



Human Energy™

### *The Payne Family*



“Ohana means family, and family means nobody gets left behind....or forgotten”

This is the family quote that guides the Payne family. For Sandy Payne the meaning of family is something extremely important to her and has resulted in her

becoming involved in the adoption community. She was first introduced to the idea of fostering while living in New Orleans next to a neighbor who was a foster parent. Her biological daughter also frequently played with a child at a nearby park who was in a foster home. Through these encounters Sandy learned that there were many children in need of loving homes and one month after becoming licensed she fostered a newborn baby girl. After eight months, she adopted a new addition to her family. Two years later she fostered another girl, who she then adopted to make her family grow to four. “God put it in my heart that one good parent is better than no parents,” said Sandy.

Since then the Payne family has moved to the Northshore, but Sandy has found herself in a different financial situation. She works at Airgas Nitrogen, operating the vinyl room where units and decals are fixed. She currently lives in a three bedroom apartment with her daughters 20 year old Ally, 16 year old Brit, and 15 year old Madison. The apartment is overcrowded, resulting in Sandy sharing a room with one of her daughters. She spends the majority of her income on rent making it challenging for the family to get by each month. “There’s been times when I couldn’t pay my bills and I had to borrow money,” said Sandy. “We had to rely on the Food Bank and donations from churches.”

Sandy was familiar with Habitat STW, but was concerned about her credit and didn’t know if it was the right program for her. However, after having a positive experience volunteering on a build site with her church, New Beginnings Church, she reconsidered, applied, and entered the program to not only build a home, but the strength, stability, and self-reliance for a better future. Through working with the Homeownership Center she has improved her credit, learned how to budget, and ultimately shifted herself into a better financial situation. Her education doesn’t stop there, as Sandy has learned new things while working on the build sites to complete her sweat equity hours.

The Payne family is extremely excited for their new home and cannot wait to make memories in a place they can call their own. They’re especially excited to celebrate their favorite holiday, Christmas, and for the first time ever, having space to decorate and get into the spirit. They’re also looking forward to being reunited with their family dog Holly, a Boston terrier who is currently staying at a friend’s house due to a strict “no pet” policy at their current apartment. Not only will they make memories with Holly and celebrate Christmas to the fullest, but they are looking forward to planting a family garden and finally placing their favorite hibiscuses in the ground.

“To me, home is stability,” said Sandy. “ My kids have moved around a lot and I feel that it’s time for them to have a stable home. It’s truly a foundation to build on.”

The Payne Family is part of Women Build 2018. 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.