

## Habitat

## Homeowner-In-

## Progress:

## Mandeville Family



The future. That's what was on Frances Mandeville's mind when she applied to Habitat for Humanity of Goldsboro-Wayne in early 2020.

"I saw it on Facebook," Frances said. "I said to myself, you know this trailer is old and needs a lot of work and Marc [her husband] can't do it all, so I'll apply. I didn't tell him at first."

In fact, she said, it wasn't until she got the letter back asking her to fill out the full application that she shared with her husband, Marc, what she had done.

"I was kind of shocked to be honest when we got the letter for us to take the next step," Frances said.

But that shock nothing compared to when they found out they had been approved.

"I was like, 'OH shoot! Wait a minute. Things like this don't happen to us,'" Marc said.

But fortunately for them, this is happening, because not only is their single-wide mobile home aging, but it's also too small for their needs. With an 18-year-old daughter, Hannah, and a 12-year-old son, Frank, not only do they just need more room, but they also need an adaptable space that gives them the ability to plan for the future.

Marc explained that he has a rare disease that causes bone tumors to grow on his joints and with 16 surgeries already under his belt since the age of 2. On disability after a career of working at Walmart and Franklin Bakery, among others, he is planning to probably have additional surgeries and likely a move to a wheelchair in the future.

Similarly afflicted, in addition to a scoliosis diagnosis, is their daughter Hannah, who has had 6 surgeries herself since the age of 2, meaning that both will soon be former Shriner's kids.

However, they said, the most excited of all of them is likely Frank, who currently is in the smallest room in the house – a room that has only seemed to get smaller – along with the rest of the house – since virtual learning began this school year.

"He's already got his room planned out," Frances said.



Frank said that he is also excited for their dog, Cookie, to have a better yard to play in.

For Marc and Frances though, it's more than just a bigger room or a yard.

"It's the chance to have an actual house in a better neighborhood," she said. "We'll be able to all sit down at the dinner table, have people over."

And while they work through their sweat equity hours, they are excited to be part of the Habitat-Thrivent Faith Build 2021 project. This project, which will begin later this spring, is focused on engaging Wayne County's faith community to help the Mandeville family and the Ligon family build new and better futures for themselves through their new homes in Pikeville.

And the Mandeville's church, Freedom Baptist, is already on board, ready to participate as soon as they are able, which will likely be in late spring – just weeks after Frances who has worked at the Swop Shop for 26 years finishes her business administration degree at Wayne Community College.

"We are blessed. We are blessed to be able to say something good finally happened," Marc said.