

Habitat Homeowner-in-Progress: Melissa Hall & Family

For Melissa Hall, the decision to apply to Habitat for Humanity was not one that she made lightly and approval did not come quickly.

Hall first applied in 2019 after moving her four children out of a house where the landlord refused to fix a leaky roof – but not until she had exhausted every other avenue she knew of and had moved in with her mother and step-father into a three-bedroom/two-bath trailer, where in the interim, she gave birth to her fifth child.

“I didn’t want to my children to have to live like that,” Hall said. “I went everywhere and talked to everybody, Realtors, rental agencies ... there just wasn’t anything suitable and affordable for my family size.”

She explained that she knew about Habitat through some friends, as well as through her job in accounts payable at Southco Distributing Co., which has long been a Habitat partner. And, she said, even though she was not among the original five homeowners chosen by the Habitat Board of Directors in 2019, she was still confident about her chances to eventually be a Habitat homeowner.

“I was feeling good about it,” Hall said. “I was praying through the whole process.”

Then in mid-2020, Hall received her approval after an earlier family had to withdraw from the program.

“When [Family Services Director] Linda [Biser] called she had me in tears more than one time,” Hall said.

Now Hall is working through her sweat equity hours with the help of her two oldest children – Gabrielle 17, on the construction sites, and Jordan, 14, in the ReStore. And while Hall admits that the construction work isn’t easy, she says she has come to enjoy working on the homes of her fellow-homeowners-in-progress.

“When you realize what you’re doing and why you’re doing it, and who you’re doing it for, it makes the day go by faster,” she said.



Melissa Hall, 37, right, stands with her children from left, Jonas, 8 months, Gabrielle, 17, Jordan, 14, and twins Khloe & Khirsten, 11.



Plus it has given her a sneak peek into what she can expect with her new home when work on it begins later this spring on Marshall Street.

“It’s going to be so pretty,” she said. “Seeing it get started and being built is going to be amazing. There’s definitely going to be some tears dropping.”

And while the kids are all excited about having their own rooms and space, Hall says she is simply looking forward to having a place of their own.

“Just to be able to go home,” she said.