

Habitat Homeowner-In-Progress: Ligon Family

Years ago Kijuana Ligon set a goal for herself – to own her own home by the time she was 40. And while it looked like she may not make it for a time, she said, she’s back on track as she and her four children are set to become the second Habitat-Thrivent Faith Build 2021 family. Now, if all goes according to plan, Kijuana, soon to be 38, will earn her home with about 12-18 months to spare.

“I wanted to get a decent, livable home for my family,” Kijuana said. “My goal before my 40th birthday was to make sure I had a home of my own for me and my kids.”

And so after several years of living in a trailer notorious for its issues with mice and other challenges, she was researching home ownership and different mortgage opportunities when she came across Habitat for Humanity and decided to apply.

As with many applicants, she wasn’t sure she would qualify at first but she decided to give it a shot. And her first time applying, she just missed the cutoff. The second time, though, she made it and when the opportunity arose to remain in the Pikeville area, she jumped on it.

Still, she said, that doesn’t mean her challenges are over. In some ways, she said, being accepted into the Habitat program, with its sweat equity requirements, has made life even more challenging.

Each family is expected to complete 15 hours a month of sweat equity and a total of 300 hours before moving into their home. These are hours that are spent on construction sites, in the ReStore and in homeownership training classes. Her children, Tekeya, 19, Jameya, 13, and Jeremiah and Josiah, both soon to be 9, can help with some of the hours, and she has other friends and family members who are pitching in, but most of those hours will be up to her to complete – not an easy task when she’s working 60-70 hours a week as a traveling CNA to pay the bills and provide for her children.

And while she hopes being in a more affordable living situation will allow her to cut back a little bit on the hours and spend more time at home, right now it’s a challenge getting it all done.

“But it’s worth it,” she said. “I understand what payoff is so I’m pushing myself.”

And, she said, her kids appreciate it, which also makes it all worth it.

“They are so excited. Every day they ask if [Habitat] has started on our house yet,” Kijuana said.



Kijuana Ligon with her four children, Tekeya, 19, left, Jameya, 13, center, and Jeremiah and Josiah, both soon to be 9.