

## Katherine's story

# "A beautiful experience"

*A future homeowner and her son look forward to quiet, sustainable living*

For some, their housing situation is uncomfortable but manageable. For future homeowner Katherine, the list of what made her housing very difficult is a long one. Living in an apartment on the second floor with laundry in the basement is an increasingly challenging prospect for a household member with advancing mobility issues. A month-to-month lease did not provide the stability and peace of mind Katherine so needed for herself and her son; they lived with the constant uncertainty that they would have to leave with very little notice without somewhere to go. Pesticides sprayed on the lawn caused her to curtail the small organic garden she had planted. Growing things is “such a huge part of who I am,” Katherine says, and it was “heartbreaking to have that loss.”

Soon, though, Katherine’s situation will change. In early 2022, Katherine was selected to be the future homeowner of one of three small homes being constructed off Burt's Pit Road in Florence. Her journey up until then had taken some discouraging twists and turns. Katherine had spent two years trying to buy a home for herself and her son. While her credit was excellent, soaring area home sale prices and steep competition for the little housing stock that was anywhere near affordable on her limited income thwarted her efforts.

“I had known about Habitat for decades, knew about Jimmy Carter’s involvement,” Katherine says, “and I always had a lot of respect for the organization. I thought I’d give it a try and was chosen, three days before my birthday!” With her work from home as a part time trauma therapist, her experience as an herbalist and gardener, and her love of birding and wild foraging, a home of her own that is in a quiet location with wild areas at hand is ideal. Add to that solar panels to make the home energy efficient, appealing to Katherine’s desire to live sustainably.

Katherine describes going through the Habitat homebuilding process as a beautiful experience and says she feels deep gratitude that this wonderful community has helped make her dream of buying an affordable and sustainable home a reality.

