

## Tiffani's story

# “This is the first step in our forever.”

*A preschool teacher and her two daughters are moving in to Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity's 50th home*

“Today’s the day we’re gonna get our house!”

Tiffani’s daughter said happily when she woke up on the morning of the lottery for

two homes Pioneer Valley Habitat would be building with two families in Pelham. After Tiffani had put in her application for one of the homes several weeks earlier, she and her daughter had driven by the lot to look at it again and again, imagining what if that’s where our home someday is? Tiffani’s eternal optimism had rubbed off on her daughter, all those times she had said, “you get out what you put into something. If you surround something with positive energy, you will have a positive outcome.” Her daughter had taken those words to heart.

It turned out that she was right. That was the day Tiffani found out that she indeed would be embarking on the construction of a Habitat home for herself and her two daughters. Her name had been selected from among the eligible applicants.

Tiffani, a preschool teacher, was just about to sit down with her young students at circle time when the call came that day. “When I heard that it was [PVHH executive director] Megan on the phone, my heart seemed to stop. And then when she told me my name had been chosen, I started sobbing,” Tiffani remembers.

While she is grateful for the roof over her head, there are things about where she and her girls have been living that she wishes she could change but they are out of her control. For a hardworking mom who has had a challenging living situation for years, looking ahead to owning a home she built with Habitat volunteers is a future she can embrace fully. What Tiffani wants for her children is a place that will be their “forever home,” and she says that being selected to be a Habitat homeowner was the first step toward their “forever.”

What does she look forward to? “I want to get up, sit on my back porch, drink my coffee, watch my kids play in the yard,” she says. And even after the reality of months of long (sometimes brutally cold) days on the construction site, Tiffani says “sometimes I still feel like I’m living in a dream...”

