

Greishka's story

At home in her home town

"I never thought I'd ever get the chance to be a homeowner. It still feels unreal!"



It's especially meaningful to Greishka that she is building her future home in Florence. She was raised in Northampton, went to Northampton High, has family here. Her children have been able to remain at Northampton High through school choice even as the family has had to move to Holyoke temporarily.

Why did they have to move? Last year, Greishka faced the nerve-wracking race against the clock and financial constraints that many face: her landlord had put the Florence property where she and her two children were living up for sale and try as she might, she was not having any luck finding anything in Florence or nearby Northampton to rent that was within her means. Rents had skyrocketed beyond what she could afford on her steady salary at a local nursing home. The landlord threatened eviction, and that was the day Greishka's luck changed: she got a call from a friend telling her that Habitat for Humanity was going to be building three houses in Florence and the application to build and buy a Habitat home was available. Greishka jumped on the application immediately, completed and submitted it, and hers was one of the three families selected.



"I never thought I'd ever get the chance to be a homeowner. It still feels unreal!" Greishka says. Though she admits she was nervous at first when it came time to start building her future home, Greishka now says, "I love everything about building my home." Greishka is a certified nursing assistant and describes how much she likes caregiving and meeting new people. It's not surprising then that she feels she might even like to continue volunteering on other Habitat builds when her home is finished.