

Rowena Potter
Homeowner #50

I remember the day I got the call that I was accepted (as a Habitat partner family). I was so surprised and happy. It was God saying to me 'I've got something better for you.'

I started getting my sweat equity hours in Cambridge. Sweat equity is all about learning – learning how to fix things and take care of our own homes. My first day on the jobsite they were painting. Even though my father had been a painter and carpenter all his life, I didn't know how to put a brush on the wall. But, the other volunteers teach you a lot. Now I know how to paint my own home.



When I was first accepted, I had one job. I volunteered in the mornings, went home for lunch and then went to my job from 3-11 p.m. Later, I took a second job to help with saving my money for settlement and to pay my bills. Then, I worked on Saturdays and it was harder getting my hours. Friends and family helped me. At one point, when I needed 100 hours, other partner families gave me some of their hours – 50 total. That was wonderful!

My sponsor Lynn has been great for me – more than anyone can know. She helped me understand things. We communicated and she encouraged me.

Owning my own home means I'm in a decent place with a better life. My bills are less expensive. When I rented, the winters were hard. Sometimes I paid as much in utilities as in rent. I spent the summers trying to catch up.

It's God first that makes the Habitat program possible and then all the people at Habitat who make it possible for us to afford a home. I thank God for Habitat. It is so good to not be a renter anymore.