

The Blevins Family Will Soon Have a Home of Their Own

Laura has lived in Greenbrier County since she was a little girl, but as a single mother with four young children she just can't seem to get ahead.

Over the past eight years, Laura and her family have had to move 16 times.

"Many times we just couldn't pay the rent. Other times we could not afford to pay the heating bill. We found ourselves constantly packing up and moving again," regrets Laura.

For reasons outside of her control, she became the sole supporter of her family. She works full-time at a local fast food restaurant, but her income is not enough to afford to rent a house or an apartment.

When Laura's parents passed away, she lost her primary support system and without having the help of her family she once again found herself needing to move. But this time she had no place to go, so they sought refuge at a homeless shelter for women and children where Laura and her four children share a singular bedroom with two beds, a closet, and a dresser. They have been there since August.

In order to have hope for a better future for her family, Gregory 6, Dominique 5, John 3 and Ileana 2, Laura came to Habitat for Humanity with the desire to take charge of her life and build a better future for her children.

"Living in a shelter is like hitting rock bottom and it is really hard on the kids," Laura admits.

Laura applied for a Habitat for Humanity house and was selected as a Partner Family by Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity in mid-October. When she learned that she had been selected by Habitat for Humanity she was overcome with emotion and said that it is a dream come true.

Knowing that she will never have to move again, Laura shared, "Thank you! I am committed to making a home for my family and not be uprooted again. You'll never know how much we appreciate this opportunity."

Then when she shared the news with her children, Gregory's reaction was, "Yeah!! We got our home!! Can we get it now!" Once she explained that he would have to wait until the new house was built, he was even more excited and asked if he could have his own hammer to help build it.

Help Build It! That's exactly what Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity will enable Laura and her four children do.



*"You can't possibly know how
BIG this is for us!"*

Laura and her family have been selected as the Partner Family for the 2011 Women Build.

The construction on the home will start later this year, culminating in a good 'ole fashion wall raising in March.

The dedication of the home is scheduled for May 7th, the Saturday before Mother's Day.