

Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity, Inc.  
Partner Family Testimony  
1/18/2018

My kids learned about community and how important it is to contribute when it's possible. Although they weren't always on the build they did see how many folks turned out to help, when they did come to do stuff like picking up stones out of the soon to be yard caulking, painting, using a hammer and tape measure they felt like they were building their own home. It was a summer of growth in many ways. The kids finally had their own bedroom which they enjoyed picking out the paint for... No more rental white... they both really enjoyed that part.

As a parent I tried to shelter them from the fact that we were struggling but I know they knew.

With the kids being 11 and 13 they saw the change in me...which in turn gave them a feeling of security. No more moving ...stability. We would come and clean up after the work crew, walk through the house...or sit on the land and talk about how wonderful it will be to have our own home.

This was something I never even dared to dream on...

As adult children now, I hear it more how it relieves them to live their own lives not having to worry about their mom.

My daughter graduated Suma Cum Laude from URI...Double Majoring in Education and English and is now finishing up her Graduate work through Southern New Hampshire College while teaching middle school at South Royalton.

My boy had more of a struggle with school, happily he has turned around full circle and is finishing up his education in Environmental Science at Humbolt College in California.

I'd like to say they would be doing as well no matter what our living situation ,,I doubt that though'. It has been a long time since the house was built 13 yrs ago, so it's hard for me to remember all the nuances in my children's behavior...tone of life.

I just know they were happier ... each occasion was a first for us: Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, all seemed better if I can say that..

Jessica on the first night we lived in the house she took a bath..."in a bathtub never used by anyone else.." I can still see the smile on her face; things like that were a continual conversation. Cody with snow up to his ears plowing into the driveway from skiing , saying did they know we could ski home from the ski area..when we built our home..??

I guess I could go on with little quips but I'm not sure that's what you want...Gratitude is what we felt. I still feel privileged to pull into our driveway, and so do my children.

If I can go on... This house has provided me a way to help my family ..I have taken in my brother as he had hit a very hard patch in life..divorce..lost his home..and his health ..now living with me and getting himself together..My ex ..who was a first class daddy..I was able to bring him home with me after he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer..and cared for him until he passed away..a home is a priceless thing..which has enabled me to do more for my children and family than I would have ever been able to do ..I think my kids are proud of me for that ..and that makes me so happy..but would never have been able to do this with out our beautiful Habitat home.

I thank you for your efforts and hope some or all of this letter helps you get the point across that with happy secure parents..or parent..whichever, makes for happy secure children..And that is a good thing.

