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Habitat for Humanity works with families and communities to build homes. Our families vary in sizes and the ages of children but there is usually school age children within our family partners. Our family partners are families that have income but are not able to secure a conventional loan. They are expected to pay the mortgage which is the calculated cost of the materials and labor to build the home. We work together to build simple, safe and affordable homes. Family Partners become homeowners with interest free mortgages. They are also tax payers in their communities. Once families move into their homes, they have the opportunity to become involved in the life of the school in their community and their children become active learners in the school. Habitat affiliates work with families to plan for the timing of moving into the home will have the smallest impact upon transitioning into the school system. This is especially important if the family will be switching school systems. The community is also involved in building the home. This provides a connection to the community that not all homeowners have.

Children who have to move often, live in crowded situations, do not have consistent availability to food and meals tend to have many school absences and/or behavioral issues in school. Habitat works to provide stable, safe and solid housing How does stable, safe and solid housing help children and their education?

- Housing quality help children to be healthier which leads to better attendance and stronger ability to attend in class.
- Housing stability can lead to an uninterrupted school year and not changing schools mid year. This also can help children to be less anxious since the home environment will be more settled.
- Affordable housing can help stabilize the family budget and allow for monies to be available for other family needs. This provides a more stable environment for children to be able to focus while attending school.

Our family partners have shared many happy stories of their children's success in school once they have moved into their new homes. Comments we have heard are:

- My child has not been sick all year and hasn't missed a day of school
- My children have been able to join in school activities because we know that we are here for good.
- I have been able to help with school and the different activities. I would never have done that if I hadn't been a part of Habitat for Humanity.
- My children graduated-I didn't think that we could make that happen.

Decent affordable and safe housing should be a right for every child and not a lucky privilege for some. Habitat for Humanity in Vermont is working to make this happen. This provides the foundation for children to access and be successful in school. Please help us continue to build these foundations and homes with families.