

Speech from Amy and Sophia Weed

December, 2017

Habitat for Humanity Sister Show

Hello, I'm Amy, my daughter and I are a Habitat Partner family from 2013. If you do the math, it is 4 years, 2 months since we moved in and are looking forward to our 5th Christmas in our new Habitat house.



Dayna and Cheri asked me to share with you a little about what it is like to be a partner family before and after Habitat. In short, it is like having a victory in your future, but, you don't know it yet.

Before I found Habitat, I had several large ups and downs. I had graduated from college, had a job with benefits, owned a condo. Then, a car accident, lost my job (while on disability), lost my condo in the crash of 2008. I had a professional degree, so, started my own business, was a single mom. Worked 4 jobs to pay the bills, I could just not manage it all. Whew! Has anyone been in my shoes?

Before I found Habitat at the local CAC office, a good day was; finding a quarter, is it for gas or ½ price laundry? Free events for entertainment with my kiddo, not losing my job when I had to pick up/drop off at school; waiting in line at the food shelf. Finding daycare scholarships (A good day!) I managed living in a one bedroom with my daughter in unhealthy conditions. We shared a bedroom – certainly not ideal. I paid only minimum on bills. It was “waste not, want not”. Ignoring daily sneers and brush offs of rejection.

Through it all, I managed to read the Bible daily and often read the newspaper to find a better place to live. Nothing was cheaper and with a foreclosure in my past, I could not get a new mortgage.

When I was selected as a habitat partner family; I never felt so unaware. I knew it would make our lives better. I knew I had to work on the build site. I knew I had to rearrange my schedule again. It felt like make believe though, the house, like I was detached from everything good and being happy.

During the build, I saw new things: Volunteers who were happy, who didn't do things just to brag about it, who returned day after day and did not judge me. Volunteers who didn't care if I knew everything or nothing about how to build. Because of my allergies and weight restrictions because of my back injury, I was unable to do many things, they taught me that I didn't have to be perfect, they just found thing for me to do I could handle. I cried when a partner family brought hot food to the build site. I was overwhelmed by the support of friends, teachers, coworkers, bosses who when asked to help, really did!

After we moved in to our Habitat home; I got time back, thanks to not going away from home to do laundry, a door to shut on bad relationships, literally.

Sophia, my daughter, says the neighborhood we live in is “totally Awesome”. There are kids to play with and parks just down the road. She has her own room and study area and space to play. She is an A student! She is able to have pets now, 2 parakeets and a fish. I see her play and is so happy in our new home. It's a success!

Now 4 years later, it's easier to look back and see happy memories. I am healthier and stronger, both, emotionally and physically. I am going for my brown belt in karate soon. My home based business, tax preparation in its 10th year is flourishing. I'm surrounded by a partner family community; who are able to play in our yards, gather for campfires or just talk to each other. I have a home to pass on to my daughter.

I now volunteer bringing food, beverages, and have donated furniture to other families. We have a long term partnership with Habitat and it is good. It's a victory!