

## **From Becky Zoubek, 2010 Partner Family Speech Given at 2012 Appreciation Dinner**

When Dayna asked me to share my story about Habitat - I was thrilled. Why you ask? Well, not because I love public speaking, but because Habitat for Humanity has changed the course of my life. My family, which consists of Emily who is (14), and Andrew who is (9) was chosen as a 2010 Partnering Family. As a single-mother, like so many, I had big dreams but was unable to make it happen, until Habitat. One of those dreams was to own a home, and with limited income it wasn't possible. I was struggling to make rent, while buying groceries, and paying utilities - it didn't leave much to live on. Never in a million years would I have guessed I'd be picking out colors for siding on a new house. Or having an overwhelming choice of kitchen and bathroom counter tops, which can be quite intimidating, but nonetheless, fun and exciting. I also looked forward to being able to putz around in my own yard. My experience was simply amazing! Habitat made this dream a reality by providing an affordable partnership at a chance to own my own home. But it didn't stop there.

Because of this experience I'm able to pursue other dreams that may have not happened. I had wanted to go back to school for some time to pursue my passion of helping people, but couldn't figure out how to accomplish this with a loss of income. The partnership with Habitat has allowed me this opportunity and I'm proud to say this time next year I will be graduating from Walden University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. I'm taking online classes while working full-time with Rust Consulting in Faribault. And who knows, a Masters degree isn't out of reach. I can't say enough good things about Habitat. There are so many caring individuals who work steadfast at making a pleasant experience for the family and friends that come together for support, it's a wonderful experience. Now that we've been in the house for nearly two years it most definitely feels like home - each day I wake up I'm reminded how truly blessed I am.

Because all of you are sitting here today I am where I am today!

Because of Habitat my future is all the more brighter, so thank you!