



Family: Patrese Thomas
Address: 395 Copeland Street
Sponsor: Thrivent, Harvest Home Coalition
Construction Start: July 25, 2020
Dedication: March 13, 2021 (1:00pm)
Move-in: Tentatively April 1, 2021

Family Background & Need:

Patrese grew up in a home on Wellington Avenue on the Southeast side of Rochester, and now rents an apartment down the street from her childhood home. She has lived in her current apartment for ten years, but unfortunately, the neighborhood isn't what it was when she was a child and she no longer feels it is a good place for her and her family.

Most recently, her downstairs neighbors have made living conditions difficult and unsafe for herself, her son Quinten, and her five year old granddaughter Ley'Onni. Her granddaughter is not allowed to play outside, ever.

The neighbors party almost every night and there are constantly police knocking. Patrese is excited to have a safe home where she does not feel worried 24/7 for the safety of her granddaughter.

Ability to Pay & Willingness to Partner:

Patrese has known about the Habitat program since she was 17 because her sister bought a Habitat home in 1999. It was a positive experience for her whole family and Patrese fondly remembers looking up to her sister as she was being interviewed by the news.

Patrese has an excellent support system of siblings, co-workers, and even family members of some clients at Woodside Manor Nursing Home, where she is a Certified Nursing Assistant. She is also actively involved in her church that will undoubtedly be supportive of her in this program.

Right from the beginning of the homebuyer program, Patrese quickly identified how she would fit sweat equity into her work schedule and had already been saving for her down payment. In addition to completing the required financial literacy classes, Patrese also attended the optional Cooking Matters course provided by Foodlink.

“I’ve done more in the homebuyer program than I ever thought I could. My savings is full, I’m eating healthier meals, and I can feel life getting better. I pray for the day my home is ready, and I pray for the people who are building it.”

UPDATES:

February 24, 2021:

Patrese had originally selected a three-bedroom, two story home on Jay Street in the JOSANA Neighborhood that was scheduled to be built in the second half of 2021. When another homebuyer changed their mind about a very similar, and nearly completed home, just three blocks away on Campbell Street, Patrese was given the opportunity to look at it.

“The Lord heard me” she said, as she broke into tears upon seeing the nearly complete home.

She toured the home and video-called her sister to show her as well. They were both very excited, but still made sure to take a day to think it over and let reality set in before deciding.

The next day, she reached back out to our staff to officially select the Campbell Street home as her new choice, saying “Thank you with all of my heart. God is so good to have blessed me with you all. Words cannot express the joy I feel in my soul. You could never imagine what I’ve encountered in my current apartment. My kids and I will finally be able to sleep peacefully without fear that something could happen to us. THANK YOU, better days are coming.”

Patrese is looking forward to introducing herself to the rest of the Habitat staff, and the sponsors who helped make the home possible at a dedication ceremony on March 13th at 1:00pm and is on track to move in on April 1st.

