



*"Our mother-daughter bond is unbreakable; we have been through so much. Raven knows I will love her and keep her safe no matter what. When I envision my life in my new home I feel peaceful knowing this is a stable home where my child will flourish."*  
-Kelsey, Future Habitat Homeowner

Dear Habitat Family,

Kelsey's journey to stability and self-reliance began a few years ago when she broke free from an abusive relationship and made the decision to start new with her then-three-year-old daughter, Raven. The global pandemic didn't make their journey any easier, but a new life was worth everything to them. Thanks to YOUR generosity, Kelsey will soon be Habitat's 156th homeowner in South Sarasota County since 1992!

Working in childcare, Kelsey's passion for shaping our future leaders is fulfilling, but the housing market is discouraging; her income is just too low to qualify for a mortgage. Not wanting to change her career path, Kelsey was losing hope. As a temporary solution, Kelsey's brother welcomed her and Raven into a home he rented with his two sons, but space was tight. Raven could not leave her toys out because living in the same room with Kelsey meant having to share that limited space. This has been their home for several years now. Then one day, "Habitat came in to save the day!" said Kelsey. "Our beloved God showed me the way and guided me to Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County."

Kelsey applied for Habitat's program and began making strides to become a homeowner. This meant needing a great credit score, working on her debt to income ratio, and learning about responsible homeownership through Habitat's educational training workshops. While in the program, Kelsey witnessed her sister's rental home of eight years get sold, leaving their big family and pets with nowhere to go. Devastated by the realization that this could happen to her too, Kelsey was determined to succeed in Habitat's program.



She poured hundreds of volunteer Sweat Equity hours into helping to build her future home as well as other homes, forging life-long friendships along the way. Kelsey pushed through every challenge and will soon be closing on her new home! Raven has already picked out the colors for her room, and even the dog they would welcome in. She will grow up learning how to maintain a house and grow a garden, and she will be a part of all the love poured into their own space where their family will blossom.

In the coming weeks, three more Habitat homes will be ready in South Sarasota County, and we'll be breaking ground on four more in just a few months. Your support was a life-changing gift for Kelsey and Raven. There are many other deserving families with the same goal, but they need our help.

**YOU are the reason we believe and the reason many families have hope! Please join us this holiday season in building a resilient community by making a donation.**

Thank you for believing in us too. We wish you and your family very happy and healthy holidays.

With love and gratitude,  
Your Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County Family.

**Right now, you can double the impact of your gift, thanks to our community partners, The Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust. All gifts \$5-\$500 will be matched once per month per household through the end of 2021. Donate online at [www.FlanzerTrust.org](http://www.FlanzerTrust.org) and select Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County as the recipient from the drop-down menu. To donate by check, please mail your check made out to The Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, 1843 Floyd Street, Sarasota, FL 34239, and note "Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota" in the memo line.**